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*Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice,  
with intr., notes and an appendix ...*

William Shakespeare











'I crave the law, the penalty and forfeit of my bond.'—ACT IV. SC. I.

Longmans' Modern Series

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SHAKESPEARE'S  
MERCHANT OF VENICE

WITH

*INTRODUCTION, NOTES, EXAMINATION PAPERS  
AND AN APPENDIX OF PREFIXES  
AND TERMINATIONS*

BY

THOMAS PARRY, F.R.G.S.

EDITOR OF 'JULIUS CÆSAR' IN THIS SERIES



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## INTRODUCTION.

### SECTION I.

**1. Shakespeare's Life and Writings.**—William Shakespeare was born at Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, the 23rd April, 1564. At the time of his birth his father, John Shakespeare, was a well-to-do tradesman, and in 1568 he was Mayor of Stratford. His mother, whose maiden name was Mary Arden, brought her husband a small landed estate. As a boy, William Shakespeare probably attended the Stratford Free Grammar School ; but, his father becoming involved in money difficulties, early took him from school to assist in his business. Some time later, probably in 1579, his father apprenticed him to a butcher. About 1586 he removed to London, leaving behind his wife and three children. Arrived in London, he became an actor, play-writer, and shareholder in the Blackfriars Theatre, and subsequently in the Globe, where he was patronised by Queen Elizabeth, James I., and the Earl of Southampton. He saved money, with which he assisted his father, as well as purchased houses and land in his native town. Year by year he visited his family, until about 1604 he left the stage and retired to Stratford. He continued to write, and, during the few quiet years that followed, produced some of the grandest of his works. He died on the 23rd April, 1616, and was buried in the chancel of Trinity Church, Stratford, where soon afterwards a bust was erected to his memory. He had two daughters and a son, and several grandchildren ; but the latter all died childless.

There are extant thirty-six plays and various minor poems attributed to Shakespeare. Some of these were not originally written by Shakespeare, but were more or less edited, recast, and refurbished by him. His best-known writings are :—  
(1) Tragedies : *Hamlet*, *Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet*. (2) English Histories : *King John*,

*Richard II., Henry IV., Henry V., Henry VI., Richard III., Henry VIII.* (3) Comedies: *Tempest, Midsummer Night's Dream, Merchant of Venice, As you Like it, Winter's Tale.*<sup>1</sup> (4) Minor poems: *Lucrece, Venus and Adonis, Sonnets.*

2. **Shakespeare's Grammar.**—Shakespeare lived at a time when the grammar and vocabulary of the English language were in a state of transition. Various points were not yet settled; and so Shakespeare's grammar is not only somewhat different from our own, but is by no means uniform in itself. In the Elizabethan age 'almost any part of speech can be used as any other part of speech. An adverb can be used as a verb, "They *askance* their eyes;" as a noun, "the *backward* and abysm of time;" or as an adjective, "a *seldom* pleasure." Any noun, adjective, or neuter [intrans.] verb can be used as an active [trans.] verb. You can "happy" your friend, "malice" or "foot" your enemy, or "fall" an axe on his neck. An adjective can be used as an adverb; and you can speak and act "easy," "free," "excellent;" or as a noun, and you can talk of "fair" instead of "beauty," and "a pale" instead of "a paleness." Even the pronouns are not exempt from these metamorphoses. A "he" is used for a man, and a lady is described by a gentleman as "the fairest *she* he has yet beheld." In the second place, every variety of apparent grammatical inaccuracy meets us. *He* for *him*, *him* for *he*; *spoke* and *took* for *spoken* and *taken*; plural nominatives with singular verbs; relatives omitted where they are now considered necessary; unnecessary antecedents inserted; *shall* for *will*, *should* for *would*, *would* for *wish*; *to* omitted after "*I ought*," inserted after "*I durst*;" double negatives; double comparatives ("more better," &c.) and superlatives; *such* followed by *which* [or *that*], *that* by *as*, *as* used for *as if*; *that* for *so that*; and lastly some verbs apparently with two nominatives, and others without any nominative at all.<sup>1</sup>—Dr. Abbott's *Shakespearian Grammar*.

3. **Shakespeare's Versification.**—Shakespeare's Plays are written mainly in what is known as *unrimed*, or *blank verse*; but they contain a number of riming, and a considerable number of prose lines. As a general rule rime is much commoner in

<sup>1</sup> This is the usual classification, but it is purely artificial.

the earlier than in the later plays. Thus, *Love's Labour Lost* contains nearly 1,100 rhyming lines, whilst (if we except the songs) the *Winter's Tale* has none. *The Merchant of Venice* has 124.

In speaking we lay a stress on particular syllables: this stress is called *accent*. When the words of a composition are so arranged that the accent recurs at regular intervals, the composition is said to be *metrical* or *rhythmical*. Rhythm, or Metre, is an embellishment of language which, though it does not constitute poetry itself, yet provides it with a suitably elegant dress; and hence most modern poets have written in metre. In blank verse the lines consist usually of ten syllables, of which the second, fourth, sixth, eighth and tenth are accented. The line consists therefore of five like parts, each of which contains an unaccented followed by an accented syllable, as in the word *attend*. Each of these five parts forms what is called a *foot* or *measure*; and the five together form a *pentameter*. 'Pentameter' is a Greek word signifying 'five measures.' This is the usual form of a line of blank verse. But a long poem composed entirely of such lines would be monotonous, and for the sake of variety several important modifications have been introduced.

(a) After the tenth syllable one or two unaccented syllables are sometimes added; as—

'Me-thought | you'said | you nei | ther lend | nor bor | row.'

(b) In any foot the accent may be shifted from the second to the first syllable, provided it be not done in two adjoining feet:

'Pluck' the | young suck' | ing cubs' | from' the | she bear': |'

(c) In such words as 'yesterday,' 'voluntary,' 'honesty,' the syllables *-day*, *-ta-*, and *-ty* falling in the place of the accent, are, for the purposes of the verse, regarded as truly accented:

'Bars' me | the right' | of vol'- | un- ta'- | ry choos' | ing.'

(d) Sometimes we have a succession of accented syllables:

'Why, now, blow wind, swell billow, and swim bark.'

(e) Sometimes, but more rarely, two or even three unaccented syllables occupy the place of one; as—

'He says | he does, | be-ing then | most flat | ter-ed.'

(f) Lines may have any number of feet from one to six.

Finally, Shakespeare adds much to the pleasing variety of his blank verse by placing the pauses in different parts of the line (especially after the second or third foot), instead of placing them all at the ends of lines as was the earlier custom.

N.B.—In some cases the rhythm requires that what we usually pronounce as one syllable shall be divided into two, as *fi-er* (fire), *su-er* (sure), *mi-el* (mile), &c. ; *too-elve* (twelve), *jaw-ee* (joy), &c. Similarly, *she-on* (-tion or -sion).

It is very important to give the pupil plenty of ear-training by means of formal scansion. This will greatly assist him in his reading.

4. **The Merchant of Venice** is believed to have been written about the year 1596. It was entered in the Registers of the Stationers' Company in 1598, and two editions of it, in quarto, were published in 1600.

The story of the lawsuit between Antonio and Shylock, and that of the three caskets, had been written in Italian long before Shakespeare's time. To these Shakespeare added the episode of the elopement of Jessica, and combined the whole so skilfully that we nowhere lose the thread, but the separate stories blend together into one organic whole.

5. **The Scene of the Play** alternates between Venice and Belmont. **Venice**,—for many years the capital of a celebrated republic, the first maritime and commercial power of the world, and one of the finest cities in Europe,—is built on eighty islands in the Adriatic, about thirty miles north of the mouths of the Po. The city is intersected by 147 canals, which form the highways of communication, as streets do in other towns, and are spanned by 450 bridges. The most famous of these is the superb bridge of the Rialto, which is built of white marble, and crosses the Grand Canal by one arch of ninety-one feet span. There are two rows of shops and three footways running along the bridge.<sup>1</sup> Venice attained the height of its prosperity in the fifteenth century ; it began to decline at the beginning of the sixteenth, mainly owing to the discovery of America, and of

<sup>1</sup> A picture of the Rialto Bridge and the Grand Canal will be found at p. 37. The gondolas in the picture are such as were formerly used. They are not now hung with rich curtains, as in the picture, but are draped and painted plain black.

the passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope. The government of Venice was republican from 997 to 1797, when it was overthrown by Napoleon. The chief magistrate of the city had the title of *Doge* or *Duke*. Venice now belongs to the kingdom of Italy.

**Belmont** seems to be located on the shore about twenty miles from Venice, possibly to the N.E., but more probably to the south. We have, however, no sufficient data for its identification.

**6. Historic Relations of Jews and Christians.**—It is impossible to understand this play without some idea of the relation in which Jews and Christians had stood to each other for many centuries prior to the time of Shakespeare.

The persecution of Jews by Christians began early in the fifth century, when Jews were excluded from civil and military service to the Roman state. Afterwards, groundless stories were invented against them, as, for example, that they stole Christian children in order to kill them for Passover. Then they were subjected to fearful persecutions: they were plundered, slaughtered, and burnt. They were forbidden to own land; their marriages were illegal without the blessing of a Christian priest; they could not indict a Christian for a crime committed against them; they were denied the right of emigration, and made the thralls of the landowners. They were bought and sold like objects of merchandise; they were forced to wear peculiar dress, and were, in some countries, branded on the chin. After being robbed of their lands they were excluded from all trades and all manual occupation, and so forced to become money-lenders. In England, during the Middle Ages, Jews had no rights: 'they were the mere chattels of the king; all they had was his.' The Jews were banished from England in 1290, and Holinshed relates how the captain who took away the richest of them drowned them all in the Thames; and he implies that this act was approved by many Englishmen, even in Elizabeth's time! 'The Crusades were the signal for relentless carnage, pillage, and violation. We read of eight hundred Jews in one place, thirteen hundred in another, at the same time ruthlessly massacred; and of Jewish parents everywhere slaying their children and themselves to

escape the tortures of the fanatics.' Jews 'literally had no resting-place for the sole of their feet ; if exiled from France, it was only to be slaughtered in England or Germany, in Spain or Italy.' And, as Dean Milman says, 'the breath of the clergy was never wanting to fan the embers of persecution.' And so it was that Antonio, 'the good Antonio—the honest Antonio,' 'the kindest man, the best conditioned and unwearied spirit in doing courtesies,' thought it not inconsistent with his character to call the Jew 'misbeliever, cut-throat dog, and to spit upon his Jewish gaberdine, and foot him, as you spurn a stranger cur over your threshold.' Even at the end, when *rendering mercy* to the Jew, he attaches to it the spiteful, hateful condition that he shall 'presently become a Christian.' Jewish enfranchisement began with the French revolution, when Jews were accorded full rights of citizenship in French territory, 1790. In 1858 they were first admitted to the British Parliament.

## SECTION II.

### STORY OF THE PLAY.

SHYLOCK, the Jew, lived at Venice : he had amassed an immense fortune by lending money at great interest to Christian merchants. Shylock, being a hard-hearted man, exacted the payment of the money he lent with such severity that he was much disliked, particularly by Antonio, a young merchant of Venice ; and Shylock as much hated Antonio, because he used to lend money gratis. Whenever Antonio met Shylock on the Rialto (or Exchange), he used to reproach him with his usuries and hard dealings ; which the Jew would bear with seeming patience, while he secretly meditated revenge.

Antonio was greatly beloved by his fellow-citizens ; for, except to the Jew, he was the kindest man that lived, and had the most unwearied spirit in doing courtesies. But the friend who was nearest and dearest to his heart was his kinsman Bassanio, a noble Venetian, who, having but a small patrimony, had exhausted it by living in too expensive a manner. Whenever Bassanio wanted money Antonio assisted him ; and it seemed as if they had but one heart and one purse between them.

One day Bassanio came to Antonio, and told him that he

wished to repair his fortune by marriage with a lady whom he dearly loved, and whose father, that was lately dead, had left her sole heiress to a large estate. He said that he had observed this lady had sometimes from her eyes sent speechless messages, that seemed to say he would be an unwelcome suitor ; but not having money to furnish himself with an appearance befitting the lover of so rich an heiress, he besought Antonio to add to the many favours he had shown him by lending him three thousand ducats. Antonio had no money by him at that time ; but, expecting soon to have some ships come home laden with merchandise, he said he would go to Shylock, the rich money-lender, and borrow the money upon the credit of those ships.

Antonio and Bassanio went to Shylock, and Antonio asked the Jew to lend him three thousand ducats upon any interest he should require, to be paid out of the merchandise contained in his ships at sea. On this Shylock thought within himself, ' If I can once catch him on the hip, I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him ; he hates our Jewish nation ; he lends out money gratis ; and among the merchants he rails at me and my well-earned bargains, which he calls interest. Cursed be my tribe if I forgive him ! ' Antonio, finding he was musing within himself and did not answer, and being impatient for the money, said, ' Shylock, do you hear ? will you lend the money ? ' To this question the Jew replied, ' Signor Antonio, on the Rialto, many a time and often, you have railed at me about my moneys and my usuries ; and I have borne it with a patient shrug, for sufferance is the badge of all our tribe : and then you have called me unbeliever, cut-throat dog, and spit upon my Jewish garments, and spurned at me with your foot, as if I was a cur. Well, then, it now appears you need my help ; and you come to me and say, *Shylock, lend me moneys*. Has a dog money ? Is it possible a cur should lend three thousand ducats ? Shall I bend low and say, Fair sir, you spit upon me on Wednesday last, another time you called me dog, and for these courtesies I am to lend you moneys.' Antonio replied, ' I am as like to call you so again, to spit on you again, and spurn you too. If you will lend me this money, lend it not to me as to a friend, but rather lend it to me as to an enemy, that if I break, you may with better face exact the penalty.' ' Why, look you,' said Shylock, ' how you storm ! I



would be friends with you and have your love. I will forget the shames you have put upon me. I will supply your wants and take no interest for my money.' This seemingly kind offer greatly surprised Antonio; and then Shylock, still pretending kindness, and that all he did was to gain Antonio's love, again said he would lend him the three thousand ducats, and take no interest for his money; only Antonio should go with him to a lawyer, and sign in merry sport a bond that if he did not repay the money by a certain day, he would forfeit a pound of flesh, to be cut off from any part of his body that Shylock pleased.

'Content,' said Antonio; 'I will sign to this bond, and say there is much kindness in the Jew.' Bassanio said Antonio should not sign to such a bond for him; but Antonio insisted that he would, for that before the day of payment came, his ships would return laden with many times the value of the money.

Shylock, hearing this debate, exclaimed, 'O father Abraham, what suspicious people these Christians are! their own hard dealings teach them to suspect the thoughts of others. I pray you tell me this, Bassanio; if he should break this day, what should I gain by the exaction of the forfeiture? A pound of man's flesh, taken from a man, is not so estimable, nor profitable neither, as the flesh of mutton or of beef. I say, to buy his favour I offer this friendship: if he will take it, so; if not, adieu.'

At last, against the advice of Bassanio, Antonio signed the bond, thinking it really was (as the Jew said) merely in sport.

The rich heiress that Bassanio wished to marry lived near Venice, at a place called Belmont; her name was Portia, and in the graces of her person and her mind, she was nothing inferior to that Portia who was Cato's daughter, and the wife of Brutus. Bassanio, being supplied with money, set out for Belmont with a splendid train, and attended by a gentleman of the name of Gratiano. Bassanio proving successful in his suit, Portia in a short time consented to accept of him for a husband.

Bassanio confessed to Portia that he had no fortune and that his high birth was all that he could boast of; she,—who loved him for his worthy qualities, and had riches enough not to regard wealth in a husband,—answered, with a graceful modesty, that she wished herself a thousand times more fair, and ten thousand times more rich, to be more worthy of him; and then the accomplished Portia prettily dispraised herself, and said she

was an unlessoned girl, unschooled, unpractised, yet not so old but that she could learn, and that she would commit her gentle spirit to be directed and governed by him in all things, and she said, 'Myself and what is mine, to you and yours is now converted. But yesterday, Bassanio, I was the lady of this fair mansion, queen of myself and mistress over these servants; and now this house, these servants and myself, are yours, my lord; I give them with this ring:' presenting a ring to Bassanio. Bassanio was so overpowered that he could not express his joy and reverence by anything but broken words of love and thankfulness; and, taking the ring, he vowed never to part with it.

Gratiano then said that he loved the lady Portia's fair waiting gentlewoman, Nerissa, and that she had promised to be his wife, if her lady married Bassanio. Portia asked Nerissa if this was true. Nerissa replied, 'Madam, it is so, if you approve of it.' Portia willingly consenting, Bassanio pleasantly said, 'Then our wedding-feast shall be much honoured by your marriage, Gratiano.'

The happiness of these lovers was sadly crossed at this moment by the entrance of a messenger, who brought a letter from Antonio containing fearful tidings. When Bassanio read Antonio's letter, Portia feared that it was to tell him of the death of some dear friend, he looked so pale; and inquiring what was the news which had so distressed him, he said, 'O sweet Portia, here are a few of the unpleasantest words that ever blotted paper. Gentle lady, when I first imparted my love to you, I freely told you all the wealth I had ran in my veins; but I should have told you I had less than nothing, being in debt.' Bassanio then told Portia of his borrowing the money of Antonio, and of Antonio's procuring it of Shylock the Jew, and of the bond by which Antonio had engaged to forfeit a pound of flesh, if it was not repaid by a certain day; and then Bassanio read Antonio's letter, the words of which were: '*Sweet Bassanio, my ships are all lost, my bond to the Jew is forfeited; and since in paying it, it is impossible I should live, I could wish to see you at my death. Notwithstanding, use your pleasure; if your love for me do not persuade you to come, let not my letter.*' 'O my dear love,' said Portia, 'despatch all business and be gone; you shall have gold to pay his money twenty times over, before this kind friend shall lose a hair by

my Bassanio's fault : and as you are so dearly bought, I will dearly love you.' Portia then said she would be married to Bassanio before he set out, to give him a legal right to the money ; and that same day they were married, and Gratiano was also married to Nerissa ; and Bassanio and Gratiano, the instant they were married, set out in great haste for Venice, where Bassanio found Antonio in prison. The day of paying being past, the cruel Jew would not accept of the money which Bassanio offered him, but insisted upon having a pound of Antonio's flesh. A day was appointed to try this shocking cause before the Duke of Venice, and Bassanio awaited in dreadful suspense the event of the trial.

When Portia parted with her husband, she spoke cheeringly to him, and bade him bring his dear friend along with him when he returned ; yet she feared it would go hard with Antonio, and, when she was left alone, she began to think and consider within herself, if she could by any means be instrumental in saving the life of her dear Bassanio's friend ; and notwithstanding, when she wished to honour her Bassanio, she had said to him with such a meek, wife-like grace, that she would submit in all things to be governed by his superior wisdom, yet, being now called forth into action by the peril of her honoured husband's friend, she did nothing doubt her own powers ; but by the sole guidance of her true and perfect judgment, she at once resolved to go herself to Venice, and speak in Antonio's defence. Portia had a relation who was a counsellor in the law ; to this gentleman, whose name was Bellario, she wrote, and stating the case to him, desired his opinion, and that with his advice he would also send the dress worn by a counsellor. When the messenger returned, he brought letters from Bellario of advice how to proceed, and also everything necessary for her equipment.

Portia dressed herself and her maid Nerissa in men's apparel, and took Nerissa along with her as her clerk. The cause was just going to be heard before the duke and senators of Venice in the senate-house, when Portia entered this high court of justice, and presented a letter from Bellario, in which that learned counsellor wrote to the duke, saying he would have come himself to plead for Antonio, but he was prevented by sickness ; and he requested that the learned young doctor

Balthazar (so he called Portia) might be permitted to plead in his stead. This the duke granted.

The importance of the arduous task Portia had engaged in, gave this tender lady courage, and she boldly proceeded in the duty she had undertaken to perform; and first of all she addressed herself to Shylock; and allowing that he had a right by the Venetian law to have the forfeit expressed in the bond, she spoke so sweetly of the noble quality of *mercy*, as would have softened any heart but the unfeeling Shylock's; saying, that it dropped as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath; and how mercy was a double blessing, it blessed him that gave, and him that received it; and how it became monarchs better than their crowns, being an attribute of God himself; and that earthly power came nearest to God's in proportion as mercy tempered justice: and she bade Shylock remember that as we all pray for mercy, that same prayer should teach us to show mercy. Shylock only answered her by desiring to have the penalty forfeited in the bond. 'Is he not able to pay the money?' asked Portia. Bassanio then offered the Jew the payment of the three thousand ducats as many times over as he should desire. Shylock refusing, Bassanio begged the learned young counsellor would endeavour to wrest the law a little to save Antonio's life. But Portia gravely answered, that that would be a very mischievous thing to do, even if she had the power, which no single person had. Shylock hearing Portia say that the law might not be altered, it seemed to him that she was pleading in his favour, and he said, 'A Daniel is come to judgment! O wise young judge, how I do honour you! How much elder are you than your looks!'

Portia now desired Shylock to let her look at the bond; and when she had read it, she said, 'This bond is forfeited, and by this the Jew may lawfully claim a pound of flesh, to be by him cut off nearest Antonio's heart.' Then she said to Shylock, 'Be merciful; take the money, and bid me tear the bond.' But no mercy would Shylock show; and he said, 'By my soul I swear, there is no power in the tongue of man to alter me.' 'Why then, Antonio,' said Portia, 'you must prepare your bosom for the knife;' and while Shylock was sharpening a long knife with great eagerness to cut off the pound of flesh, Portia said to Antonio, 'Have you anything to say?' Antonio, with

calm resignation, replied, that he had but little to say, for that he had prepared his mind for death. Then he said to Bassanio, 'Give me your hand, Bassanio! Fare you well! Grieve not that I am fallen into this misfortune for you.' Commend me to your honourable wife, and tell her how I have loved you!' Bassanio in the deepest affliction replied, 'Antonio, I am married to a wife, who is as dear to me as life itself; but life itself, my wife, and all the world, are not esteemed with me above your life. I would lose all, I would sacrifice all to this devil here, to deliver you.'

Portia hearing this, though the kind-hearted lady was not at all offended with her husband for expressing the love he owed to so true a friend as Antonio in those strong terms, yet could not help answering, 'Your wife would give you little thanks, if she were present, to hear you make this offer.' And then Gratiano, who loved to copy what his lord did, thought he must make a speech like Bassanio's, and he said, in Nerissa's hearing, who was writing in her clerk's dress by the side of Portia, 'I have a wife, whom I protest I love; I wish she were in heaven, if she could but entreat some power there to change the cruel temper of this currish Jew.' 'It is well you wish this behind her back, else you would have but an unquiet house,' said Nerissa. Shylock now cried out, impatiently, 'We trifle time; I pray pronounce the sentence.' And now all was awful expectation, and every heart was full of grief for Antonio.

Portia asked if the scales were ready to weigh the flesh; and she said to the Jew, 'Shylock, you must have some surgeon by, lest he bleed to death.' Shylock, whose whole intent was that Antonio should bleed to death, said, 'It is not so named in the bond.' Portia replied, 'It is not so named in the bond, but what of that? It is good you did so much for charity.' To this, all the answer Shylock would make was, 'I cannot find it; it is not in the bond.' 'Then,' said Portia, 'a pound of Antonio's flesh is thine. The law allows it, and the court awards it. And you may cut this flesh from off his breast. The law allows it, and the court awards it.' Again Shylock exclaimed, 'O wise and upright judge! A Daniel is come to judgment!' And then he sharpened his long knife again, and looking eagerly on Antonio, he said, 'Come, prepare!'

'Tarry a little, Jew,' said Portia; 'there is something else.'

This bond here gives you no drop of blood ; the words expressly are, *a pound of flesh*. If in the cutting off the pound of flesh you shed one drop of Christian blood, your land and goods are by the law to be confiscated to the state of Venice.' Now, as it was utterly impossible for Shylock to cut off the pound of flesh without shedding some of Antonio's blood, this wise discovery of Portia's, that it was flesh and not blood that was named in the bond, saved the life of Antonio ; and Gratiano exclaimed, in the words which Shylock had used, 'O wise and upright judge ! Mark, Jew, a Daniel is come to judgment !'

Shylock finding himself defeated in his cruel intent, said he would take the money ; and Bassanio, rejoiced beyond measure at Antonio's unexpected deliverance, cried out, 'Here is the money !' But Portia stopped him, saying, 'Softly ; there is no haste ; the Jew shall have nothing but the penalty ; therefore prepare, Shylock, to cut off the flesh ; but mind you shed no blood ; and cut neither more nor less than just a pound ; be it more or less by one poor scruple, nay, if the scale turn but by the weight of a single hair, you are condemned by the laws of Venice to die, and all your wealth is forfeited to the state.' 'Give me my money, and let me go,' said Shylock. 'I have it ready,' said Bassanio ; 'here it is.'

Shylock was going to take the money, when Portia again stopped him, saying, 'Tarry, Jew ; I have yet another hold upon you. By the laws of Venice, your wealth is forfeited to the state, for having conspired against the life of one of its citizens, and your life lies at the mercy of the duke ; therefore down on your knees, and ask him to pardon you.' The duke then said to Shylock, 'That you may see the difference of our Christian spirit, I pardon you your life before you ask it : half your wealth belongs to Antonio, the other half comes to the state.' The generous Antonio then said, that he would give up his share of Shylock's wealth, if Shylock would sign a deed to make it over at his death to his daughter and her husband ; for Antonio knew that the Jew had an only daughter, who had lately married against his wishes a young Christian named Lorenzo, a friend of Antonio's. The Jew agreed to this ; and, being thus disappointed in his revenge, and despoiled of his riches, he said, 'I am ill. Let me go home ; send the deed

after me, and I will sign over half my riches to my daughter.' 'Get thee gone then,' said the duke, 'and sign it; and if you repent your cruelty and turn Christian, the state will forgive you the fine of the other half of your riches.'

The duke now released Antonio, and dismissed the court. He then highly praised the wisdom and ingenuity of the young counsellor, and invited him home to dinner. Portia, who meant to return to Belmont before her husband, replied, 'I humbly thank your grace, but I must away directly.' The duke said he was sorry he had not leisure to stay and dine with him; and, turning to Antonio, he added, 'Reward this gentleman; for in my mind you are much indebted to him.'

The duke and his senators left the court; and then Bassanio said to Portia, 'Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend Antonio, have, by your wisdom, been this day acquitted of grievous penalties; and I beg you will accept of the three thousand ducats due unto the Jew.' 'And we shall stand indebted to you over and above,' said Antonio, 'in love and service evermore.'

Portia could not be prevailed upon to accept the money; but, upon Bassanio still pressing her to accept of some reward, she said, 'Give me your gloves; I will wear them for your sake;' and then espying the ring she had given him upon his finger, she added, 'And for your love I will take this ring from you.' Bassanio was sadly distressed that the counsellor should ask him for the only thing he could not part with; and he replied, in great confusion, that he could not give him that ring, because it was his wife's gift, and he had vowed never to part with it; but that he would give him the most valuable ring in Venice, and find it out by proclamation. On this Portia affected to be affronted, and left the court, saying, 'You teach me, sir, how a beggar should be answered.' 'Dear Bassanio,' said Antonio, 'let him have the ring; let my love, and the great service he has done me, be valued against your wife's displeasure.' Bassanio, ashamed to appear so ungrateful, yielded, and sent Gratiano after Portia with the ring; and then the clerk Nerissa, who had also given Gratiano a ring, begged it, and Gratiano (not choosing to be outdone in generosity by his lord) gave it to her. The ladies laughed to think how, when they got home, they would tax their husbands

with giving away their rings, and swear that they had given them as a present to some woman.

Portia, when she returned, was in that happy temper of mind which never fails to attend the consciousness of having performed a good action; her cheerful spirits enjoyed everything she saw: the moon never seemed to shine so bright before; and when it was hid behind a cloud, then a light which she saw from her house at Belmont as well pleased her charmed fancy, and she said to Nerissa, 'That light we see is burning in my hall; how far that little candle throws its beams; so shines a good deed in a naughty world;' and hearing the sound of music from her house, she said, 'Methinks that music sounds much sweeter than by day.' And now Portia and Nerissa entered the house, and dressing themselves in their own apparel, they awaited the arrival of their husbands, who soon followed them with Antonio; and Bassanio presented his dear friend to the lady Portia. The congratulations and welcomings of that lady were hardly over, when they perceived Nerissa and her husband quarrelling in a corner of the room. 'A quarrel already?' said Portia, 'what is the matter?' Gratiano replied, 'Lady, it is about a paltry gilt ring that Nerissa gave me, with words upon it like the poetry on a cutler's knife, *Love me and leave me not.*'

'What does the poetry or the value of the ring signify?' said Nerissa. 'You swore to me, when I gave it to you, that you would keep it till the hour of death; and now you say you gave it to the lawyer's clerk. I know you gave it to a woman.' 'By this hand,' replied Gratiano, 'I gave it to a youth, a kind of boy, a little scrubbed boy no higher than yourself; he was clerk to the young counsellor that by his wise pleading saved Antonio's life; this prating boy begged it for a fee, and I could not for my life deny him.' Portia said, 'You were to blame, Gratiano, to part with your wife's first gift. I gave my lord Bassanio a ring, and I am sure he would not part with it for all the world.' Gratiano in excuse for his fault now said, 'My lord Bassanio gave his ring to the counsellor, and then the boy, his clerk, that took some pains in writing, begged my ring.'

Portia hearing this, seemed very angry, and reproached Bassanio for giving away her ring; and she said, Nerissa had taught her what to believe, and that she knew some woman



had the ring. Bassanio was very unhappy to have so offended his dear lady, and he said with great earnestness, 'No, by my honour, no woman had it, but a civil doctor, who refused three thousand ducats of me, and begged the ring; which when I denied him, he went displeased away. What could I do, sweet Portia? I was so beset with shame for my seeming ingratitude, that I was forced to send the ring after him. Pardon me, good lady; had you been there, I think you would have begged the ring of me to give the worthy doctor.'

'Ah!' said Antonio, 'I am the unhappy cause of these quarrels.'

Portia bade Antonio not to grieve, for that he was welcome notwithstanding; and then Antonio said, 'I once did lend my body for Bassanio's sake, and, but for him to whom your husband gave the ring, I should have now been dead. I dare be bound again, my soul upon the forfeit, your lord will never more break faith with you.' 'Then you shall be his surety,' said Portia; 'give him this ring, and bid him keep it better than the other.'

When Bassanio looked at this ring, he was surprised to find it was the same he gave away; and then Portia told him, how she was the young counsellor, and Nerissa was her clerk; and Bassanio found, to his unspeakable wonder and delight, that it was by the noble courage and wisdom of his wife that Antonio's life was saved.

And Portia again welcomed Antonio, and gave him letters which by some chance had fallen into her hands, which contained an account of Antonio's ships, that were supposed lost, being safely arrived in the harbour. So the tragical beginnings of this rich merchant's story were all forgotten in the unexpected good fortune which ensued; and there was leisure to laugh at the comical adventure of the rings, and the husbands that did not know their own wives: Gratiano merrily declaring, in a sort of rhyming speech, that—

— while he liv'd, he'd fear no other thing  
So sore, as keeping safe Nerissa's ring.

*[Slightly altered from Lamb's 'Tales  
from Shakespeare.']*

# MERCHANT OF VENICE.

## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

DUKE OF VENICE.

PRINCE OF MOROCCO, } Suitors to

PRINCE OF ARRAGON, } Portia.

ANTONIO, the Merchant of Venice.

BASSANIO, his Kinsman and Friend.

SOLANIO, } Friends to Antonio

SALARINO, } and Bassanio.

GRATIANO, }

LORENZO, in love with Jessica.

SHYLOCK, a Jew.

TUBAL, a Jew, his Friend.

LAUNCELOT GOBBO, a Clown, Servant to Shylock, afterwards to Bassanio.

OLD GOBBO, Father to Launcelot.

SALEARIO, a Messenger from Venice.

LEONARDO, Servant to Bassanio.

BALTHAZAR, } Servants to Portia.

STEPHANO, }

PORTIA, a rich Helress.

NERISSA, her Waiting-Maid.

JESSICA, Daughter to Shylock.

Magnificoes of Venice, Officers of the Court of Justice, Jailer, Servants, and other Attendants.

SCENE: *Partly at VENICE and partly at BELMONT, the Seat of Portia, on the Continent.*

## ACT I.

### SCENE I. *Venice. A street.*

*Enter* ANTONIO, SALARINO, and SOLANIO.

*Ant.* In sooth, I know not why I am so sad ;  
It wearies me ; you say it wearies you ;  
But how I caught it, found it, or came by it,  
What stuff 'tis made of, whereof it is born,  
I am to learn ;  
And such a want-wit sadness makes of me,  
That I have much ado to know myself.

*Salar.* Your mind is tossing on the ocean ;  
There, where your argosies with portly sail,—  
Like signiors and rich burghers of the flood,

Or, as it were, the pageants of the sea,—  
 Do overpeer the petty traffickers,  
 That curt'sy to them, do them reverence,  
 As they fly by them with their woven wings.

*Solan.* Believe me, sir, had I such venture forth, 15  
 The better part of my affections would  
 Be with my hopes abroad. I should be still  
 Plucking the grass, to know where sits the wind ;  
 Peering in maps, for ports, and piers, and roads ;  
 And every object that might make me fear 20  
 Misfortune to my ventures, out of doubt,  
 Would make me sad.

*Salar.* My wind, cooling my broth,  
 Would blow me to an ague, when I thought  
 What harm a wind too great might do at sea.  
 I should not see the sandy hour-glass run, 25  
 But I should think of shallows and of flats,  
 And see my wealthy Andrew dock'd in sand,  
 Vailing her high-top lower than her ribs,  
 To kiss her burial. Should I go to church,  
 And see the holy edifice of stone, 30  
 And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks,  
 Which touching but my gentle vessel's side,  
 Would scatter all her spices on the stream,  
 Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks,  
 And,—in a word, but even now worth this, 35  
 And now worth nothing? Shall I have the thought  
 To think on this ; and shall I lack the thought,  
 That such a thing, bechanc'd, would make me sad ?  
 But, tell not me ; I know, Antonio  
 Is sad to think upon his merchandise. 40

*Ant.* Believe me, no : I thank my fortune for it,  
 My ventures are not in one bottom trusted,

Nor to one place ; nor is my whole estate  
Upon the fortune of this present year :  
Therefore, my merchandise makes me not sad. 45

*Salar.* Why, then you are in love.

*Ant.* Fie, fie !

*Salar.* Not in love neither ? Then let's say, you  
are sad,

Because you are not merry : and 'twere as easy  
For you to laugh, and leap, and say you are merry,  
Because you are not sad. Now, by two-headed Janus,  
Nature hath fram'd strange fellows in her time : 51  
Some that will evermore peep through their eyes,  
And laugh, like parrots, at a bag-piper ;  
And other of such vinegar aspect,  
That they'll not show their teeth in way of smile, 55  
Though Nestor swear the jest be laughable.

*Solan.* Here comes Bassanio, your most noble  
kinsman,  
Gratiano, and Lorenzo. Fare you well ;  
We leave you now with better company.

*Salar.* I would have stay'd till I had made you  
merry, 60  
If worthier friends had not prevented me.

*Ant.* Your worth is very dear in my regard.  
I take it, your own business calls on you,  
And you embrace the occasion to depart.

*Enter* BASSANIO, LORENZO, *and* GRATIANO.

*Salar.* Good morrow, my good lords. 65

*Bass.* Good signiors both, when shall we laugh ?

*Salar.* when ?

You grow exceeding strange : must it be so ?

*Salar.* We'll make our leisures to attend on yours.

[*Exeunt* SALARINO and SOLANIO.]

*Lor.* My lord Bassanio, since you have found Antonio,

We two will leave you : but, at dinner time, 70

I pray you, have in mind where we must meet.

*Bass.* I will not fail you.

*Grat.* You look not well, signior Antonio ;  
You have too much respect upon the world :  
They lose it that do buy it with much care. 75  
Believe me, you are marvellously chang'd.

*Ant.* I hold the world but as the world, Gratiano ;  
A stage, where every man must play a part,  
And mine a sad one.

*Grat.* Let me play the fool :  
With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come ; 80  
And let my liver rather heat with wine,  
Than my heart cool with mortifying groans.  
Why should a man, whose blood is warm within,  
Sit like his grandsire cut in alabaster ?  
Sleep when he wakes ? and creep into the jaundice 85  
By being peevish ? I tell thee what, Antonio,  
(I love thee, and it is my love that speaks,)  
There are a sort of men, whose visages  
Do cream and mantle, like a standing pond ;  
And do a wilful stillness entertain, 90  
With purpose to be dress'd in an opinion  
Of wisdom, gravity, profound conceit ;  
As who should say, *I am sir Oracle,*  
*And, when I ope my lips, let no dog bark !*  
O, my Antonio, I do know of these, 95  
That therefore only are reputed wise,

For saying nothing ; who, I am very sure,  
If they should speak, would almost damn those ears,  
Which, hearing them, would call their brothers fools.  
I'll tell thee more of this another time : 100  
But fish not, with this melancholy bait,  
For this fool-gudgeon, this opinion.—  
Come, good Lorenzo.—Fare ye well, awhile ;  
I'll end my exhortation after dinner.

*Lor.* Well, we will leave you, then, till dinner-time :  
I must be one of these same dumb wise men, 106  
For Gratiano never lets me speak.

*Grat.* Well, keep me company but two years more,  
Thou shalt not know the sound of thine own tongue.

*Ant.* Farewell : I'll grow a talker for this gear. 110  
[*Exeunt GRATIANO and LORENZO.*]

*Bass.* Gratiano speaks an infinite deal of nothing,  
more than any man in all Venice. His reasons are as  
two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff ; you  
shall seek all day ere you find them : and, when you  
have them, they are not worth the search. 115

*Ant.* Well ; tell me now, what lady is the same  
To whom you swore a secret pilgrimage,  
That you to-day promis'd to tell me of ?

*Bass.* 'Tis not unknown to you, Antonio,  
How much I have disabled mine estate, 120  
By something showing a more swelling port  
Than my faint means would grant continuance :  
Nor do I now make moan to be abridg'd  
From such a noble rate ; but my chief care  
Is, to come fairly off from the great debts, 125  
Wherein my time, something too prodigal,  
Hath left me gag'd. To you, Antonio,  
I owe the most, in money, and in love :

And from your love I have a warranty  
To unburthen all my plots and purposes, 130  
How to get clear of all the debts I owe.

*Ant.* I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know it ;  
And, if it stand, as you yourself still do,  
Within the eye of honour, be assur'd,  
My purse, my person, my extremest means, 135  
Lie all unlock'd to your occasions.

*Bass.* In my school-days, when I had lost one  
shaft,  
I shot his fellow of the self-same flight  
The self-same way, with more advisèd watch,  
To find the other forth ; and by adventuring both, 140  
I oft found both : I urge this childhood proof,  
Because what follows is pure innocence.  
I owe you much ; and, like a wilful youth,  
That which I owe is lost : but if you please  
To shoot another arrow that self way 145  
Which you did shoot the first, I do not doubt,  
As I will watch the aim, or to find both,  
Or bring your latter hazard back again,  
And thankfully rest debtor for the first.

*Ant.* You know me well ; and herein spend but  
time, 150  
To wind about my love with circumstance ;  
And, out of doubt, you do me now more wrong,  
In making question of my uttermost,  
Than if you had made waste of all I have :  
Then do but say to me what I should do, 155  
That in your knowledge may by me be done,  
And I am prest unto it : therefore, speak.

*Bass.* In Belmont is a lady richly left ;  
And she is fair, and, fairer than that word,

Of wond'rous virtues ; sometimes from her eyes 160  
I did receive fair speechless messages :  
Her name is Portia ; nothing undervalued  
To Cato's daughter, Brutus' Portia :  
Nor is the wide world ignorant of her worth ;  
For the four winds blow in from every coast 165  
Renowned suitors : and her sunny locks  
Hang on her temples like a golden fleece ;  
Which makes her seat of Belmont, Colchos' strand ;  
And many Jasons come in quest of her.  
O my Antonio, had I but the means 170  
To hold a rival place with one of them,  
I have a mind presages me such thrift  
That I should questionless be fortunate.

*Ant.* Thou know'st, that all my fortunes are at sea ;  
Neither have I money, nor commodity 175  
To raise a present sum : therefore go forth ;  
Try what my credit can in Venice do ;  
That shall be rack'd, even to the uttermost,  
To furnish thee to Belmont, to fair Portia.  
Go, presently inquire, and so will I, 180  
Where money is ; and I no question make,  
To have it of my trust, or for my sake. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. *Belmont. A room in Portia's house.*

*Enter PORTIA and NERISSA.*

*Por.* By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is a-weary of this great world.

*Ner.* You would be, sweet madam, if your miseries were in the same abundance as your good fortunes are. And yet, for aught I see, they are as sick that surfeit with too much, as they that starve with nothing.



It is no mean happiness, therefore, to be seated in the mean ; superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency lives longer. 9

*Por.* Good sentences, and well pronounced.

*Ner.* They would be better, if well followed.

*Por.* If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine that follows his own instructions : I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching. But this reasoning is not in the fashion to choose me a husband :—O me, the word 'choose !' I may neither choose whom I would, nor refuse whom I dislike ; so is the will of a living daughter curbed by the will of a dead father.—Is it not hard, Nerissa, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none ? 23

*Ner.* Your father was ever virtuous ; and holy men, at their death, have good inspirations ; therefore, the lottery, that he hath devised in these three chests, of gold, silver, and lead, (whereof who chooses his meaning, chooses you,) will, no doubt, never be chosen by any rightly, but one who shall rightly love. But what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these princely suitors that are already come ?

*Por.* I pray thee, over-name them ; and as thou namest them, I will describe them ; and, according to my description, level at my affection. 34

*Ner.* First, there is the Neapolitan prince.

*Por.* Ay, that's a colt, indeed, for he doth nothing but talk of his horse ; and he makes it a great appropriation to his own good parts, that he can shoe him himself. 39

*Ner.* Then there is the county Palatine.

*Por.* He doth nothing but frown ; as who should say, *An if you will not have me, choose* ; he hears merry tales, and smiles not : I fear he will prove the weeping philosopher when he grows old, being so full of unmannerly sadness in his youth. I had rather be married to a death's-head with a bone in his mouth, than to either of these. God defend me from these two !

*Ner.* How say you by the French lord, Monsieur Le Bon ? 49

*Por.* God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man. In truth, I know it is a sin to be a mocker : but, he ! why, he hath a horse better than the Neapolitan's ; a better bad habit of frowning than the count Palatine : he is every man in no man : if a throstle sing, he falls straight a capering ; he will fence with his own shadow. If I should marry him, I should marry twenty husbands. If he would despise me, I would forgive him ; for, if he love me to madness, I shall never requite him. 59

*Ner.* What say you then to Falconbridge, the young baron of England ?

*Por.* You know, I say nothing to him ; for he understands not me, nor I him : he hath neither Latin, French, nor Italian ; and you will come into the court and swear, that I have a poor pennyworth in the English. He is a proper man's picture ; but, alas ! who can converse with a dumb-show ? How oddly he is suited ! I think he bought his doublet in Italy, his round hose in France, his bonnet in Germany, and his behaviour every where. 70

*Ner.* What think you of the Scottish lord, his neighbour ?

*Por.* That he hath a neighbourly charity in him ; for he borrowed a box of the ear of the Englishman, and swore he would pay him again, when he was able : I think, the Frenchman became his surety, and sealed under for another. 77

*Ner.* How like you the young German, the duke of Saxony's nephew ?

*Por.* Very vilely in the morning, when he is sober ; and most vilely in the afternoon, when he is drunk : when he is best, he is a little worse than a man ; and when he is worst, he is little better than a beast. An the worst fall that ever fell, I hope, I shall make shift to go without him. 85

*Ner.* If he should offer to choose, and choose the right casket, you should refuse to perform your father's will, if you should refuse to accept him. 88

*Por.* Therefore, for fear of the worst, I pray thee, set a deep glass of Rhenish wine on the contrary casket ; for, if the devil be within, and that temptation without, I know he will choose it. I will do any thing, Nerissa, ere I will be married to a sponge. 93

*Ner.* You need not fear, lady, the having any of these lords ; they have acquainted me with their determinations : which is, indeed, to return to their home, and to trouble you with no more suit, unless you may be won by some other sort than your father's imposition, depending on the caskets. 99

*Por.* If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana, unless I be obtained by the manner of my father's will. I am glad this parcel of wooers are so reasonable ; for there is not one among them but I dote on his very absence, and I pray God grant them a fair departure. 105

*Ner.* Do you not remember, lady, in your father's time, a Venetian, a scholar, and a soldier, that came hither in company of the Marquis of Montferrat?

*Por.* Yes, yes, it was Bassanio; as I think, so was he called. 110

*Ner.* True, madam; he of all the men that ever my foolish eyes looked upon, was the best deserving a fair lady.

*Por.* I remember him well; and I remember him worthy of thy praise.—How now! what news? 115

*Enter a SERVANT.*

*Ser.* The four strangers seek for you, madam, to take their leave: and there is a forerunner come from a fifth, the prince of Morocco; who brings word, the prince, his master, will be here to-night. 119

*Por.* If I could bid the fifth welcome, with so good heart as I can bid the other four farewell, I should be glad of his approach: if he have the condition of a saint, and the complexion of a devil, I had rather he should shrive me than wive me. 124

Come, Nerissa.—Sirrah, go before.—

Whiles we shut the gate upon one wooer, another knocks at the door. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE III. *Venice. A public place.*

*Enter BASSANIO and SHYLOCK.*

*Shy.* Three thousand ducats,—well.

*Bass.* Ay, sir, for three months.

*Shy.* For three months,—well.

*Bass.* For the which, as I told you, Antonio shall be bound. 5

*Shy.* Antonio shall become bound,—well.

*Bass.* May you stead me? Will you pleasure me? Shall I know your answer?

*Shy.* Three thousand ducats, for three months, and Antonio bound. 10

*Bass.* Your answer to that.

*Shy.* Antonio is a good man.

*Bass.* Have you heard any imputation to the contrary? 14

*Shy.* Ho, no, no, no, no ;—my meaning, in saying he is a good man, is to have you understand me, that he is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition : he hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies ; I understand, moreover, upon the Rialto, he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England ; and other ventures he hath, squander'd abroad. But ships are but boards, sailors but men : there be land-rats, and water-rats, land-thieves, and water-thieves,—I mean, pirates ; and then, there is the peril of waters, winds, and rocks. The man is, notwithstanding, sufficient ;—three thousand ducats :—I think I may take his bond. 26

*Bass.* Be assured you may.

*Shy.* I will be assured I may ; and, that I may be assured, I will bethink me. May I speak with Antonio ? 30

*Bass.* If it please you to dine with us.

*Shy.* Yes, to smell pork ; to eat of the habitation which your prophet, the Nazarite, conjured the devil into ! I will buy with you, sell with you, talk with you, walk with you, and so following ; but I will not eat with

you, drink with you, nor pray with you. What news  
on the Rialto?—Who is he comes here ? 37

*Enter* ANTONIO.

*Bass.* This is signior Antonio.

*Shy.* [*Aside.*] How like a fawning publican he  
looks !

I hate him for he is a Christian :  
But more, for that, in low simplicity, 40  
He lends out money gratis, and brings down  
The rate of usance here with us in Venice.  
If I can catch him once upon the hip,  
I will feed fat the ancient grudge I bear him.  
He hates our sacred nation ; and he rails, 45  
Even there where merchants most do congregate,  
On me, my bargains, and my well-won thrift,  
Which he calls interest. Cursèd be my tribe,  
If I forgive him !

*Bass.* Shylock, do you hear ?

*Shy.* I am debating of my present store ; 50  
And, by the near guess of my memory,  
I cannot instantly raise up the gross  
Of full three thousand ducats. What of that ?  
Tubal, a wealthy Hebrew of my tribe,  
Will furnish me. But soft ! How many months 55  
Do you desire ?—Rest you fair, good signior ;

[*To* ANTONIO.]

Your worship was the last man in our mouths.

*Ant.* Shylock, albeit I neither lend nor borrow,  
By taking, nor by giving of excess,  
Yet, to supply the ripe wants of my friend, 60  
I'll break a custom.—Is he yet possess'd,  
How much you would ?

*Shy.* Ay, ay, three thousand ducats.

*Ant.* And for three months.

*Shy.* I had forgot,—three months, you told me so.  
Well then, your bond ; and, let me see,——But hear  
you ; 65

Methought, you said, you neither lend nor borrow  
Upon advantage.



‘Hath a dog money?’

*Ant.* I do never use it.

*Shy.* Three thousand ducats,—’tis a good round  
sum.

Three months from twelve,—then, let me see, the rate—

*Ant.* Well, Shylock, shall we be beholding to you?

*Shy.* Signior Antonio, many a time and oft, 71  
In the Rialto, you have rated me

About my moneys, and my usances :  
Still have I borne it with a patient shrug ;  
For sufferance is the badge of all our tribe ; 75  
You call me—misbeliever, cut-throat dog,  
And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine,  
And all for use of that which is mine own.  
Well then, it now appears, you need my help :  
Go to, then ; you come to me, and you say, 80  
*Shylock, we would have moneys.* You say so ;  
You, that did void your rheum upon my beard,  
And foot me, as you spurn a stranger cur  
Over your threshold ; moneys is your suit.  
What should I say to you ? Should I not say, 85  
*Hath a dog money ? Is it possible,*  
*A cur can lend three thousand ducats ?* Or  
Shall I bend low, and in a bondman's key,  
With bated breath, and whispering humbleness,  
Say this,— 90  
*Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last ;*  
*You spurn'd me such a day ; another time*  
*You call'd me—dog ; and for these courtesies*  
*I'll lend you thus much moneys.*

*Ant.* I am as like to call thee so again, 95  
To spit on thee again, to spurn thee too.  
If thou wilt lend this money, lend it not  
As to thy friends ; (for when did friendship take  
A breed for barren metal of his friend ?)  
But lend it rather to thine enemy ; 100  
Who, if he break, thou may'st with better face  
Exact the penalty.

*Shy.* Why, look you, how you storm !  
I would be friends with you, and have your love,  
Forget the shames that you have stain'd me with,



Supply your present wants, and take no doit 105  
Of usance for my moneys, and you'll not hear me :  
This is kind I offer.

*Ant.* This were kindness.

*Shy.* This kindness will I show.  
Go with me to a notary, seal me there  
Your single bond ; and, in a merry sport, 110  
If you repay me not on such a day,  
In such a place, such sum, or sums, as are  
Express'd in the condition, let the forfeit  
Be nominated for an equal pound  
Of your fair flesh, to be cut off and taken 115  
In what part of your body pleaseth me.

*Ant.* Content, in faith ; I'll seal to such a bond,  
And say there is much kindness in the Jew.

*Bass.* You shall not seal to such a bond for me :  
I'll rather dwell in my necessity. 120

*Ant.* Why, fear not, man : I will not forfeit it :  
Within these two months, that's a month before  
This bond expires, I do expect return  
Of thrice three times the value of this bond.

*Shy.* O father Abraham, what these Christians  
are, 125  
Whose own hard dealings teaches them suspect  
The thoughts of others !—Pray you, tell me this ;  
If he should break his day, what should I gain  
By the exaction of the forfeiture ?  
A pound of man's flesh, taken from a man, 130  
Is not so estimable, profitable neither,  
As flesh of muttons, beefs, or goats. I say,  
To buy his favour, I extend this friendship :  
If he will take it, so ; if not, adieu ;  
And, for my love, I pray you, wrong me not. 135

*Ant.* Yes, Shylock, I will seal unto this bond.

*Shy.* Then meet me forthwith at the notary's ;  
Give him direction for this merry bond ;  
And I will go and purse the ducats straight,  
See to my house, (left in the fearful guard 140  
Of an unthrifty knave,) and presently  
I will be with you. [*Exit SHYLOCK.*

*Ant.* Hie thee, gentle Jew.  
This Hebrew will turn Christian : he grows kind.

*Bass.* I like not fair terms, and a villain's mind.

*Ant.* Come on : in this there can be no dismay ;  
My ships come home a month before the day. [*Exeunt.*

## ACT II.

SCENE I. *Belmont. A room in Portia's house.*

*Flourish of Cornets. Enter the Prince of MOROCCO  
and his Train ; PORTIA, NERISSA, and other of her  
Attendants.*

*Mor.* Mislike me not for my complexion,  
The shadow'd livery of the burnish'd sun,  
To whom I am a neighbour, and near bred.  
Bring me the fairest creature northward born,  
Where Phœbus' fire scarce thaws the icicles, 5  
And let us make incision for your love,  
To prove whose blood is reddest, his, or mine.  
I tell thee, lady, this aspect of mine  
Hath fear'd the valiant ; by my love, I swear,  
The best-regarded virgins of our clime 10  
Have lov'd it too : I would not change this hue,  
Except to steal your thoughts, my gentle queen.

*Por.* In terms of choice I am not solely led  
By nice direction of a maiden's eyes :  
Besides, the lottery of my destiny 15  
Bars me the right of voluntary choosing :  
But, if my father had not scanted me,  
And hedg'd me by his wit, to yield myself  
His wife who wins me by that means I told you,  
Yourself, renownèd prince, then stood as fair, 20  
As any comer I have look'd on yet,  
For my affection.

*Mor.* Even for that I thank you :  
Therefore, I pray you, lead me to the caskets,  
To try my fortune. By this scimitar,  
(That slew the Sophy, and a Persian prince 25  
That won three fields of Sultan Solyman,)  
I would out-stare the sternest eyes that look,  
Out-brave the heart most daring on the earth,  
Pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear,  
Yea, mock the lion when he roars for prey, 30  
To win thee, lady. But, alas the while !  
If Hercules and Lichas play at dice  
Which is the better man, the greater throw  
May turn by fortune from the weaker hand :  
So is Alcides beaten by his page ; 35  
And so may I, blind Fortune leading me,  
Miss that which one unworthier may attain,  
And die with grieving.

*Por.* You must take your chance ;  
And either not attempt to choose at all,  
Or swear, before you choose,—if you choose wrong, 40  
Never to speak to lady afterward  
In way of marriage : therefore be advis'd.

*Mor.* Nor will not. Come, bring me unto my  
chance.

*Por.* First, forward to the temple ; after dinner 44  
Your hazard shall be made.

*Mor.* Good fortune then ! [*Cornets.*  
To make me blest or cursed'st among men. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II. *Venice. A street.*

*Enter* LAUNCELOT GOBBO.

*Laun.* Certainly, my conscience will serve me to run from this Jew, my master. The fiend is at mine elbow, and tempts me, saying to me, *Gobbo, Launcelot Gobbo, good Launcelot, or good Gobbo, or good Launcelot Gobbo, use your legs, take the start, run away.* My conscience says,—*No ; take heed, honest Launcelot ; take heed, honest Gobbo ;* or, (as aforesaid,) *honest Launcelot Gobbo ; do not run ; scorn running with thy heels.* Well, the most courageous fiend bids me pack ; *Via !* says the fiend ; *away !* says the fiend ; *rouse up a brave mind,* says the fiend, *and run.* Well, my conscience, hanging about the neck of my heart, says very wisely to me,—*My honest friend Launcelot, being an honest man's son, budge not.* *Budge,* says the fiend. *Budge not,* says my conscience. Conscience, say I, you counsel well ; fiend, say I, you counsel well : to be ruled by my conscience, I should stay with the Jew my master, who is a kind of devil ; and, to run away from the Jew, I should be ruled by the fiend, who, saving your reverence, is the devil himself. Certainly, the Jew is the very devil incarnation ; and, in my conscience, my conscience is but a kind of hard conscience, to offer to counsel me to stay with the Jew. The fiend gives the more friendly counsel :

I will run, fiend ; my heels are at your commandment ;  
I will run. 26

*Enter Old GOBBO, with a Basket.*

*Gob.* Master, young man, you, I pray you, which is the way to Master Jew's ?



' Master, young gentleman, I pray you.'

*Laun.* [*Aside.*] O heavens, this is my true-begotten father ! who, being more than sand-blind, high-gravel-blind, knows me not :—I will try confusions with him. 32

*Gob.* Master, young gentleman, I pray you, which is the way to Master Jew's ?

*Laun.* Turn up on your right hand at the next turning, but, at the next turning of all, on your left ;

marry, at the very next turning, turn of no hand,  
but turn down indirectly to the Jew's house. 38

*Gob.* 'Twill be a hard way to hit. Can you tell  
me whether one Launcelot, that dwells with him,  
dwell with him, or no? 41

*Laun.* Talk you of young master Launcelot?—  
[*Aside.*] Mark me now; now will I raise the waters.—  
Talk you of young master Launcelot?

*Gob.* No *master*, sir, but a poor man's son; his  
father, though I say it, is an honest exceeding poor  
man, and, God be thanked, well to live. 47

*Laun.* Well, let his father be what 'a will, we talk  
of young master Launcelot.

*Gob.* Your worship's friend, and Launcelot, sir.

*Laun.* But I pray you *ergo*, old man, *ergo*, I be-  
seech you, talk you of young master Launcelot? 52

*Gob.* Of Launcelot, an't please your mastership.

*Laun.* *Ergo*, master Launcelot; talk not of master  
Launcelot, father; for the young gentleman (according  
to fates and destinies, and such odd sayings, the  
sisters three, and such branches of learning,) is indeed  
deceased; or, as you would say in plain terms, gone  
to heaven. 59

*Gob.* Marry, God forbid! the boy was the very  
staff of my age, my very prop.

*Laun.* [*Aside.*] Do I look like a cudgel, or a  
hovel-post, a staff, or a prop?—Do you know me,  
father? 64

*Gob.* Alack the day, I know you not, young  
gentleman; but, I pray you, tell me, is my boy (God  
rest his soul!) alive or dead?

*Laun.* Do you not know me, father? 68

*Gob.* Alack, sir, I am sand-blind, I know you not.

*Laun.* Nay, indeed, if you had your eyes, you might fail of the knowing me : it is a wise father that knows his own child. Well, old man, I will tell you news of your son : give me your blessing : [*kneels*] truth will come to light ; murder cannot be hid long ; a man's son may ; but, in the end, truth will out. 75

*Gob.* Pray you, sir, stand up ; I am sure you are not Launcelot, my boy.

*Laun.* Pray you, let's have no more fooling about it, but give me your blessing ; I am Launcelot, your boy that was, your son that is, your child that shall be.

*Gob.* I cannot think you are my son.

*Laun.* I know not what I shall think of that : but I am Launcelot, the Jew's man ; and, I am sure, Margery, your wife, is my mother. 84

*Gob.* Her name is Margery, indeed : I'll be sworn, if thou be Launcelot, thou art mine own flesh and blood. [*Taking hold of Launcelot's back hair.*] What a beard hast thou got ! thou hast got more hair on thy chin, than Dobbin my fill-horse has on his tail. 89

*Laun.* It should seem, then, that Dobbin's tail grows backward ; I am sure he had more hair of his tail, than I have of my face, when I last saw him.

*Gob.* Lord, how art thou changed ! How dost thou and thy master agree ? I have brought him a present. How 'gree you now ? 95

*Laun.* Well, well ; but for mine own part, as I have set up my rest to run away, so I will not rest till I have run some ground. My master's a very Jew. Give him a present ! give him a halter : I am famish'd in his service ; you may tell every finger I have with my ribs. Father, I am glad you are come ; give me your present to one Master Bassanio, who, indeed,

gives rare new liveries ; if I serve not him, I will run as far as God has any ground.—O rare fortune ! here comes the man ;—to him, father ; for I am a Jew, if I serve the Jew any longer. 106

*Enter BASSANIO, with LEONARDO, and other Followers.*

*Bass.* You may do so ;—but let it be so hasted, that supper be ready at the farthest by five of the clock. See these letters deliver'd ; put the liveries to making ; and desire Gratiano to come anon to my lodging. [*Exit a SERVANT.*]

*Laun.* To him, father. 112

*Gob.* God bless your worship !

*Bass.* Gramercy ! Wouldst thou aught with me ?

*Gob.* Here's my son, sir, a poor boy,—

*Laun.* Not a poor boy, sir, but the rich Jew's man ; that would, sir, as my father shall specify,—

*Gob.* He hath a great infection, sir, as one would say, to serve— 119

*Laun.* Indeed, the short and the long is, I serve the Jew, and have a desire, as my father shall specify,— 122

*Gob.* His master and he, (saving your worship's reverence,) are scarce cater-cousins :

*Laun.* To be brief, the very truth is, that the Jew having done me wrong, doth cause me, as my father, being I hope an old man, shall frutify unto you,—

*Gob.* I have here a dish of doves, that I would bestow upon your worship ; and my suit is,— 129

*Laun.* In very brief, the suit is impertinent to myself, as your worship shall know by this honest old man ; and, though I say it, though old man, yet, poor man, my father. 133



*Bass.* One speak for both.—What would you ?

*Laun.* Serve you, sir.

*Gob.* This is the very defect of the matter, sir.

*Bass.* I know thee well ; thou hast obtained thy suit :

Shylock, thy master, spoke with me this day, 138  
And hath preferr'd thee, if it be preferment,  
To leave a rich Jew's service, to become  
The follower of so poor a gentleman.

*Laun.* The old proverb is very well parted between  
my master Shylock and you, sir ; you have grace of  
God, sir, and he hath enough. 144

*Bass.* Thou speak'st it well. Go, father, with thy  
son :—

Take leave of thy old master, and enquire  
My lodging out.—[*To his followers*] Give him a livery  
More guarded than his fellows' : see it done. 148

*Laun.* Father, in.—I cannot get a service, no ;—I  
have ne'er a tongue in my head.—Well, father, come ;  
I'll take my leave of the Jew in the twinkling of an  
eye. [*Exeunt LAUNCELOT and Old GOBBO.*]

*Bass.* I pray thee, good Leonardo, think on this ;  
These things being bought and orderly bestow'd,  
Return in haste ; for I do feast to-night  
My best-esteem'd acquaintance : hie thee, go. 156

*Leon.* My best endeavours shall be done herein.

*Enter GRATIANO.*

*Grat.* Where is your master ?

*Leon.* Yonder, sir, he walks.  
[*Exit LEONARDO.*]

*Grat.* Signior Bassanio,—

*Bass.* Gratiano !

*Grat.* I have a suit to you.

*Bass.* You have obtain'd it.

*Grat.* You must not deny me : I must go with you to Belmont. 165

*Bass.* Why, then you must.—But hear thee, Gratiano ;

Thou art too wild, too rude, and bold of voice ;—

Parts, that become thee happily enough,

And in such eyes as ours appear not faults ; 169

But where thou art not known, why, there they show

Something too liberal. Pray thee take pain

To allay with some cold drops of modesty

Thy skipping spirit ; lest, through thy wild behaviour,

I be misconstrued in the place I go to, 174

And lose my hopes.

*Grat.* Signior Bassanio, hear me :

If I do not put on a sober habit,

Talk with respect, and swear but now and then,

Wear prayer-books in my pocket, look demurely ;

Nay more, while grace is saying, hood mine eyes

Thus with my hat, and sigh, and say, *Amen* ; 180

Use all the observance of civility,

Like one well studied in a sad ostent

To please his grandam,—never trust me more.

*Bass.* Well, we shall see your bearing.

*Grat.* Nay, but I bar to-night ; you shall not gauge me 185

By what we do to-night.

*Bass.* No, that were pity ;

I would entreat you rather to put on

Your boldest suit of mirth, for we have friends

That purpose merriment. But fare you well,

I have some business. 190

*Grat.* And I must to Lorenzo and the rest ;  
But we will visit you at supper-time. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III. *A room in Shylock's house.*

*Enter JESSICA and LAUNCELOT.*

*Jess.* I am sorry thou wilt leave my father so ;  
Our house is hell ; but thou, a merry devil,  
Didst rob it of some taste of tediousness :  
But fare thee well ; there is a ducat for thee.  
And, Launcelot, soon at supper shalt thou see      5  
Lorenzo, who is thy new master's guest :  
Give him this letter ; do it secretly ;  
And so farewell : I would not have my father  
See me talk with thee.

*Laun.* Adieu !—tears exhibit my tongue.—      10  
Most beautiful pagan,—most sweet Jew ! But, adieu !  
these foolish drops do somewhat drown my manly  
spirit ; adieu ! [*Exit.*

*Jess.* Farewell, good Launcelot.—      14  
Alack, what heinous sin is it in me,  
To be asham'd to be my father's child !  
But, though I am a daughter to his blood,  
I am not to his manners : O Lorenzo,  
If thou keep promise, I shall end this strife,—      19  
Become a Christian, and thy loving wife. [*Exit.*

SCENE IV. *Venice. A street.*

*Enter GRATIANO, LORENZO, SALARINO, and SOLANIO.*

*Lor.* Nay, we will slink away in supper-time,  
Disguise us at my lodging, and return  
All in an hour.

*Grat.* We have not made good preparation.

*Salar.* We have not spoke us yet of torch-bearers.

*Solan.* 'Tis vile, unless it may be quaintly order'd ;  
And better, in my mind, not undertook. 7

*Lor.* 'Tis now but four o'clock ; we have two hours  
To furnish us :—

*Enter LAUNCELOT, with a Letter.*

Friend Launcelot, what's the news ?

*Laun.* An it shall please you to break up this, it  
shall seem to signify. 11

*Lor.* I know the hand : in faith, 'tis a fair hand ;  
And whiter than the paper it writ on,  
Is the fair hand that writ.

*Grat.* Love-news, in faith.

*Laun.* By your leave, sir.

*Lor.* Whither goest thou ?

*Laun.* Marry, sir, to bid my old master, the Jew,  
to sup to-night with my new master, the Christian. 18

*Lor.* Hold here, take this :—tell gentle Jessica,  
I will not fail her ;—speak it privately ;  
Go.—Gentlemen, [*Exit LAUNCELOT.*]  
Will you prepare you for this mask to-night ?  
I am provided of a torch-bearer. 23

*Salar.* Ay, marry, I'll be gone about it straight.

*Solan.* And so will I.

*Lor.* Meet me, and Gratiano,  
At Gratiano's lodging some hour hence. 26

*Salar.* 'Tis good we do so.

[*Exeunt SALARINO and SOLANIO.*]

*Grat.* Was not that letter from fair Jessica ?

*Lor.* I must needs tell thee all. She hath directed,  
How I shall take her from her father's house ; 30

What gold and jewels she is furnished with ;  
 What page's suit she hath in readiness.  
 If e'er the Jew, her father, come to heaven,  
 It will be for his gentle daughter's sake :  
 And never dare misfortune cross her foot, 35  
 Unless she do it under this excuse,—  
 That she is issue to a faithless Jew.  
 Come, go with me ; peruse this, as thou goest : 38  
 Fair Jessica shall be my torch-bearer. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE V. *Venice. Before Shylock's house.*

*Enter SHYLOCK and LAUNCELOT.*

*Shy.* Well, thou shalt see, thy eyes shall be thy  
 judge,  
 The difference of old Shylock and Bassanio :—  
 What, Jessica !—thou shalt not gormandise,  
 As thou hast done with me :—What, Jessica !—  
 And sleep, and snore, and rend apparel out ;— 5  
 Why, Jessica, I say !

*Laun.* Why, Jessica !

*Shy.* Who bids thee call ? I do not bid thee call.

*Laun.* Your worship was wont to tell me, I could  
 do nothing without bidding. 9

*Enter JESSICA.*

*Jess.* Call you ? What is your will ?

*Shy.* I am bid forth to supper, Jessica ;  
 There are my keys.—But wherefore should I go ?  
 I am not bid for love ; they flatter me : 13  
 But yet I'll go in hate, to feed upon  
 The prodigal Christian.—Jessica, my girl,

Look to my house :—I am right loth to go ;  
There is some ill a-brewing towards my rest,  
For I did dream of money-bags to-night. 18

*Laun.* I beseech you, sir, go ; my young master  
doth expect your reproach.

*Shy.* So do I his.

*Laun.* And they have conspired together,—I will  
not say, you shall see a mask ; but if you do, then  
it was not for nothing that my nose fell a-bleeding on  
Black-Monday last, at six o'clock i' the morning, fall-  
ing out that year on Ash-Wednesday was four year,  
in the afternoon. 27

*Shy.* What ! are there masks ? Hear you me,

Jessica :

Lock up my doors ; and when you hear the drum,  
And the vile squealing of the wry-neck'd fife,  
Clamber not you up to the casements then, 31  
Nor thrust your head into the public street,  
To gaze on Christian fools with varnish'd faces.  
But stop my house's ears, I mean my casements :  
Let not the sound of shallow foppery enter  
My sober house.—By Jacob's staff, I swear 36  
I have no mind of feasting forth to-night :  
But I will go.—Go you before me, sirrah ;  
Say, I will come.

*Laun.* I will go before, sir.—

Mistress, look out at window, for all this ; 40

There will come a Christian by,

Will be worth a Jewess' eye. [*Exit* LAUNCELOT.

*Shy.* What says that fool of Hagar's offspring, ha ?

*Jess.* His words were, ' Farewell, mistress ; ' nothing  
else.

*Shy.* The patch is kind enough ; but a huge feeder,

Snail-slow in profit, and he sleeps by day 46  
 More than the wild-cat ; drones hive not with me ;  
 Therefore I part with him ; and part with him  
 To one that I would have him help to waste  
 His borrow'd purse.—Well, Jessica, go in : 50  
 Perhaps, I will return immediately :  
 Do, as I bid you ; shut doors after you :  
 Fast bind, fast find ;  
 A proverb never stale in thrifty mind. [Exit.  
*Jess.* Farewell : and if my fortune be not crost,  
 I have a father, you a daughter, lost. [Exit.

SCENE VI. *The same.*

*Enter GRATIANO and SALARINO, masked.*

*Grat.* This is the pent-house, under which Lorenzo  
 Desir'd us to make stand.

*Salar.* His hour is almost past.

*Grat.* And it is marvel he out-dwells his hour,  
 For lovers ever run before the clock.

*Salar.* O, ten times faster Venus' pigeons fly 5  
 To seal love's bonds new made, than they are wont  
 To keep obligèd faith unforfeited !

*Grat.* That ever holds : who riseth from a feast,  
 With that keen appetite that he sits down ?  
 Where is the horse that doth untread again 10  
 His tedious measures with the unbated fire  
 That he did pace them first ? All things that are,  
 Are with more spirit chasèd than enjoy'd.  
 How like a youngker, or a prodigal,  
 The scarfèd bark puts from her native bay, 15  
 Hugg'd and embracèd by the strumpet wind !

How like the prodigal doth she return, 17  
With over-weather'd ribs, and ragged sails,  
Lean, rent, and beggar'd by the strumpet wind!

*Sal.* Here comes Lorenzo ;—more of this here-  
after. 20

*Enter LORENZO.*

*Lor.* Sweet friends, your patience for my long  
abode ;  
Not I, but my affairs, have made you wait ;  
When you shall please to play the thieves for wives,  
I'll watch as long for you then.—Approach ;  
Here dwells my father Jew.—Ho ! who's within ? 25

*Enter JESSICA, above, in Boy's clothes.*

*Jess.* Who are you ? Tell me, for more certainty,  
Albeit I'll swear that I do know your tongue.

*Lor.* Lorenzo, and thy love.

*Jess.* Lorenzo, certain ; and my love, indeed ;  
For who love I so much ? And now who knows, 30  
But you, Lorenzo, whether I am yours ?

*Lor.* Heaven, and thy thoughts, are witness that  
thou art.

*Jess.* Here, catch this casket ; it is worth the pains.  
I am glad 'tis night, you do not look on me,  
For I am much asham'd of my exchange ; 35  
But love is blind, and lovers cannot see  
The pretty follies that themselves commit :  
For if they could, Cupid himself would blush  
To see me thus transform'd to a boy. 39

*Lor.* Descend, for you must be my torch-bearer.

*Jess.* What, must I hold a candle to my shames ?  
They in themselves, good sooth, are too-too light.  
Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love ;



And I should be obscur'd.

*Lor.*

So are you, sweet,

Even in the lovely garnish of a boy.

45

But come at once ;

For the close night doth play the run-away,

And we are stay'd for at Bassanio's feast.



'Catch this casket.'

*Jess.* I will make fast the doors, and gild myself  
With some more ducats, and be with you straight. 50

[Exit, from above.]

*Grat.* Now, by my hood, a Gentile, and no Jew.

*Lor.* Beshrew me, but I love her heartily :

For she is wise, if I can judge of her ;

And fair she is, if that mine eyes be true ;

And true she is, as she hath prov'd herself ; 55

And therefore, like herself, wise, fair, and true,

Shall she be placèd in my constant soul.

*Enter JESSICA, below.*

What, art thou come ?—On, gentlemen ; away !

Our masking mates by this time for us stay.

[*Exit with JESSICA and SALARINO.*

*Enter ANTONIO.*

*Ant.* Who's there ? 60

*Grat.* Signior Antonio ?

*Ant.* Fie, fie, Gratiano ! where are all the rest ?

'Tis nine o'clock : our friends all stay for you.—

No mask to-night ; the wind is come about ;

Bassanio presently will go aboard : 65

I have sent twenty out to seek for you.

*Grat.* I am glad on't ; I desire no more delight,

Than to be under sail, and gone to-night. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE VII. *Belmont. A room in Portia's house.*

*Flourish of Cornets. Enter PORTIA, with the Prince of MOROCCO, and both their Trains.*

*Por.* Go, draw aside the curtains, and discover  
The several caskets to this noble prince.—

Now make your choice.

*Mor.* The first, of gold, who this inscription  
bears :—

*Who chooseth me, shall gain what many men desire.* 5

The second, silver, which this promise carries :—  
*Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserves.*  
 This third, dull lead, with warning all as blunt :—  
*Who chooseth me, must give and hazard all he hath.*  
 How shall I know if I do choose the right ? 10



'Some god direct my judgment ! Let me see.'

*Por.* The one of them contains my picture, prince ;  
 If you choose that, then I am yours withal.

*Mor.* Some god direct my judgment ! Let me see ;  
 I will survey the inscriptions back again :  
 What says this leaden casket ? 15

*Who chooseth me, must give and hazard all he hath.*

Must give—For what ? for lead ? hazard for lead ?  
This casket threatens. Men, that hazard all,  
Do it in hope of fair advantages :  
A golden mind stoops not to shows of dross ; 20  
I'll then nor give, nor hazard, aught for lead.  
What says the silver, with her virgin hue ?  
*Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserves.*  
As much as he deserves ?—Pause there, Morocco,  
And weigh thy value with an even hand : 25  
If thou be'st rated by thy estimation,  
Thou dost deserve enough ; and yet enough  
May not extend so far as to the lady ;  
And yet to be afraid of my deserving,  
Were but a weak disabling of myself. 30  
As much as I deserve !—Why, that's the lady :  
I do in birth deserve her, and in fortunes,  
In graces, and in qualities of breeding ;  
But more than these, in love I do deserve.  
What if I stray'd no further, but chose here ?— 35  
Let's see once more this saying grav'd in gold :  
*Who chooseth me, shall gain what many men desire.*  
Why, that's the lady ; all the world desires her :  
From the four corners of the earth they come,  
To kiss this shrine, this mortal-breathing saint. 40  
The Hyrcanian deserts, and the vasty wilds  
Of wide Arabia, are as through-fares now,  
For princes to come view fair Portia :  
The watery kingdom, whose ambitious head  
Spits in the face of heaven, is no bar 45  
To stop the foreign spirits ; but they come,  
As o'er a brook, to see fair Portia.  
One of these three contains her heavenly picture.  
Is't like, that lead contains her ? 'Twere damnation

To think so base a thought : it were too gross 50  
To rib her cerecloth in the obscure grave.

Or shall I think, in silver she's immur'd,  
Being ten times undervalued to tried gold ?

O sinful thought ! Never so rich a gem  
Was set in worse than gold. They have in England 55

A coin that bears the figure of an angel  
Stampèd in gold ; but that's insculp'd upon ;

But here an angel in a golden bed

Lies all within.—Deliver me the key :

Here do I choose, and thrive I as I may ! 60

*Por.* There, take it, prince ; and if my form lie there,  
Then I am yours. [*He unlocks the golden casket.*

*Mor.* O hell ! what have we here ?

A carrion Death, within whose empty eye  
There is a written scroll ! I'll read the writing. 64

*All that glisters is not gold,*

*Often have you heard that told :*

*Many a man his life hath sold,*

*But my outside to behold :*

*Gilded tombs do worms infold.*

*Had you been as wise as bold,* 70

*Young in limbs, in judgment old,*

*Your answer had not been inscroll'd :*

*Fare you well ; your suit is cold.*

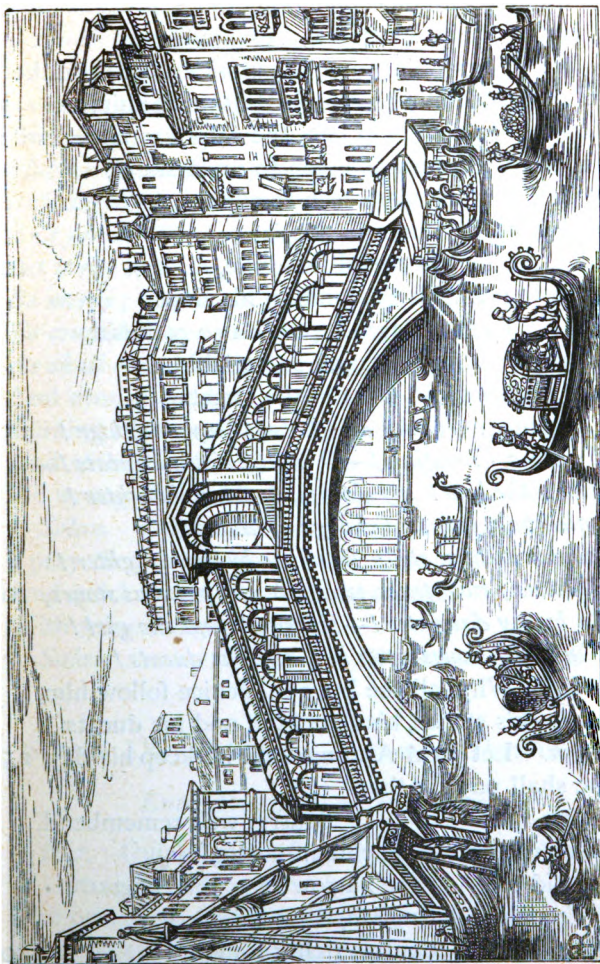
Cold, indeed ; and labour lost :

Then, farewell, heat ; and, welcome, frost.— 75  
Portia, adieu ! I have too griev'd a heart

To take a tedious leave : thus losers part. [*Exit.*

*Por.* A gentle riddance.—Draw the curtains,  
go.—

Let all of his complexion choose me so. [*Exeunt.*



'That in a gondola were seen together Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica.'

SCENE VIII. *Venice. A street.*

*Enter SALARINO and SOLANIO.*

*Salar.* Why, man, I saw Bassanio under sail :

With him is Gratiano gone along ; 2  
And in their ship, I am sure Lorenzo is not.

*Solan.* The villain Jew with outcries rais'd the duke ;  
Who went with him to search Bassanio's ship. 5

*Salar.* He came too late, the ship was under sail :  
But there the duke was given to understand,  
That in a gondola were seen together  
Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica.  
Besides, Antonio certified the duke, 10  
They were not with Bassanio in his ship.

*Solan.* I never heard a passion so confus'd,  
So strange, outrageous, and so variable,  
As the dog Jew did utter in the streets :  
*My daughter !—O my ducats !—O my daughter !* 15  
*Fled with a Christian !—O my Christian ducats !—*  
*Justice ! the law ! my ducats, and my daughter !*  
*A seal'd bag, two seal'd bags of ducats,*  
*Of double ducats, stol'n from me by my daughter !*  
*And jewels ; two stones, two rich and precious stones,* 20  
*Stol'n by my daughter !—Justice ! find the girl !*  
*She hath the stones upon her, and the ducats !*

*Salar.* Why, all the boys in Venice follow him,  
Crying,—his stones, his daughter, and his ducats.

*Solan.* Let good Antonio look he keep his day, 25  
Or he shall pay for this.

*Salar.* Marry, well remember'd.  
I reason'd with a Frenchman yesterday,  
Who told me,—in the narrow seas, that part  
The French and English, there miscarried  
A vessel of our country, richly fraught : 30  
I thought upon Antonio, when he told me ;  
And wish'd, in silence, that it were not his.

*Solan.* You were best to tell Antonio what you  
hear ;

Yet do not suddenly, for it may grieve him.

*Salar.* A kinder gentleman treads not the earth.  
I saw Bassanio and Antonio part : 36

Bassanio told him, he would make some speed  
Of his return : he answer'd,—*Do not so.*

*Slubber not business for my sake, Bassanio,  
But stay the very riping of the time ;* 40

*And for the Jew's bond, which he hath of me,  
Let it not enter in your mind of love :*

*Be merry ; and employ your chiefest thoughts  
To courtship, and such fair ostents of love  
As shall conveniently become you there.* 45

And even there, his eye being big with tears,  
Turning his face, he put his hand behind him,  
And with affection wondrous sensible  
He wrung Bassanio's hand ; and so they parted.

*Solan.* I think he only loves the world for him.  
I pray thee, let us go and find him out, 51

And quicken his embracèd heaviness  
With some delight or other.

*Salar.* Do we so. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IX. *Belmont. A room in Portia's house.*

*Enter NERISSA, with a Servant.*

*Ner.* Quick, quick, I pray thee, draw the curtain  
straight ;  
The prince of Arragon hath ta'en his oath,  
And comes to his election presently.

*Flourish of Cornets. Enter the Prince of ARRAGON,  
PORTIA, and their Trains.*

*Por.* Behold, there stand the caskets, noble prince :



If you choose that wherein I am contain'd, 5  
 Straight shall our nuptial rites be solemnis'd ;  
 But if you fail, without more speech, my lord,  
 You must be gone from hence immediately.

*Arr.* I am enjoin'd by oath to observe three things :  
 First, never to unfold to any one 10  
 Which casket 'twas I chose ; next, if I fail  
 Of the right casket, never in my life  
 To woo a maid in way of marriage ; lastly,  
 If I do fail of fortune in my choice,  
 Immediately to leave you and be gone. 15

*Por.* To these injunctions every one doth swear,  
 That comes to hazard for my worthless self.

*Arr.* And so have I address'd me. Fortune now  
 To my heart's hope !—Gold, silver, and base lead.  
*Who chooseth me, must give and hazard all he hath.* 20  
 You shall look fairer, ere I give or hazard.  
 What says the golden chest ? ha ! let me see :—

*Who chooseth me, shall gain what many men desire.*  
 What many men desire !—That many may be meant  
 By the fool multitude, that choose by show, 25  
 Not learning more than the fond eye doth teach ;  
 Which pries not to the interior, but, like the martlet,  
 Builds in the weather on the outward wall,  
 Even in the force and road of casualty.

I will not choose what many men desire, 30  
 Because I will not jump with common spirits,  
 And rank me with the barbarous multitude.  
 Why, then to thee, thou silver treasure-house ;  
 Tell me once more what title thou dost bear :

*Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserves :* 35  
 And well said too ; for who shall go about  
 To cozen fortune, and be honourable,  
 Without the stamp of merit ? Let none presume

To wear an undeservèd dignity.

O, that estates, degrees, and offices, 40

Were not deriv'd corruptly ! and that clear honour

Were purchas'd by the merit of the wearer !

How many then should cover, that stand bare !

How many be commanded, that command !

How much low peasantry would then be glean'd 45

From the true seed of honour ! and how much honour

Pick'd from the chaff and ruin of the times,

To be new varnish'd ! Well, but to my choice :

*Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserves :*

I will assume desert.—Give me a key for this, 50

And instantly unlock my fortunes here.

*[He opens the silver casket.]*

*Por.* Too long a pause for that which you find there.

*Arr.* What's here ? the portrait of a blinking idiot,  
Presenting me a schedule ! I will read it.

How much unlike art thou to Portia ! 55

How much unlike my hopes, and my deservings !

*Who chooseth me, shall have as much as he deserves.*

Did I deserve no more than a fool's head ?

Is that my prize ? are my deserts no better ?

*Por.* To offend, and judge, are distinct offices, 60  
And of opposèd natures.

*Arr.* What is here ?

*The fire seven times trièd this :*

*Seven times trièd that judgment is,*

*That did never choose amiss.*

*Some there be, that shadows kiss :* 65

*Such have but a shadow's bliss.*

*There be fools alive, iwis,*

*Silver'd o'er ; and so was this.*

*Take what wife you will to bed,*

*I will ever be your head :* 70  
*So be gone : you are sped.*

Still more fool I shall appear,  
 By the time I linger here :  
 With one fool's head I came to woo,  
 But I go away with two.— 75  
 Sweet, adieu ! I'll keep my oath,  
 Patiently to bear my wroth.

[*Exeunt* ARRAGON and *Train*.]

*Por.* Thus hath the candle sing'd the moth.  
 O, these deliberate fools ! when they do choose,  
 They have the wisdom by their wit to lose. 80

*Ner.* The ancient saying is no heresy :—  
 Hanging and wiving goes by destiny.

*Por.* Come, draw the curtain, Nerissa.

*Enter a* SERVANT.

*Ser.* Where is my lady ?

*Por.* Here ; what would my lord ?

*Ser.* Madam, there is alighted at your gate 85  
 A young Venetian, one that comes before  
 To signify the approaching of his lord ;  
 From whom he bringeth sensible regrets :—  
 To wit, (besides commends, and courteous breath,)  
 Gifts of rich value. Yet I have not seen 90  
 So likely an ambassador of love :

A day in April never came so sweet,  
 To show how costly summer was at hand,  
 As this fore-spurrer comes before his lord.

*Por.* No more, I pray thee ; I am half afeard, 95  
 Thou wilt say anon he is some kin to thee,  
 Thou spend'st such high-day wit in praising him.—  
 Come, come, Nerissa ; for I long to see

Quick Cupid's post, that comes so mannerly.

*Ner.* Bassanio, lord Love, if thy will it be!

[*Exeunt.*]

## ACT III.

### SCENE I. *Venice. A street.*

*Enter SOLANIO and SALARINO.*

*Solan.* Now, what news on the Rialto?

*Salar.* Why, yet it lives there uncheck'd, that Antonio hath a ship of rich lading wreck'd on the narrow seas; the Goodwins, I think they call the place; a very dangerous flat, and fatal, where the carcasses of many a tall ship lie buried, as they say, if my gossip Report be an honest woman of her word.

*Solan.* I would she were as lying a gossip in that as ever knapp'd ginger, or made her neighbours believe she wept for the death of a third husband. But it is true,—without any slips of prolixity, or crossing the plain high-way of talk,—that the good Antonio, the honest Antonio,—O that I had a title good enough to keep his name company!— 14

*Salar.* Come, the full stop.

*Solan.* Ha,—what say'st thou?—Why, the end is, he hath lost a ship.

*Salar.* I would it might prove the end of his losses! 19

*Solan.* Let me say *Amen* betimes, lest the devil cross my prayer; for here he comes in the likeness of a Jew.—

*Enter SHYLOCK.*

How now, Shylock? what news among the merchants? 24

*Shy.* You knew, none so well, none so well as you, of my daughter's flight. 26

*Salar.* That's certain ; I, for my part, knew the tailor that made the wings she flew withal.

*Solan.* And Shylock, for his own part, knew the bird was fledg'd ; and then it is the complexion of them all to leave the dam. 31

*Shy.* My own flesh and blood to rebel !

*Salar.* There is more difference between thy flesh and hers, than between jet and ivory ; more between your bloods, than there is between red wine and Rhenish.—But tell us, do you hear whether Antonio have had any loss at sea or no ? 37

*Shy.* There I have another bad match : a bankrupt, a prodigal, who dare scarce show his head on the Rialto ;—a beggar, that was used to come so smug upon the mart ;—let him look to his bond : he was wont to call me usurer ;—let him look to his bond : he was wont to lend money for a Christian courtesy ;—let him look to his bond. 44

*Salar.* Why, I am sure, if he forfeit, thou wilt not take his flesh : what's that good for ?

*Shy.* To bait fish withal : if it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me, and hindered me half a million ; laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies ; and what's his reason ? I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes ? hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions ? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a

Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that. If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility? revenge. If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by Christian example? why, revenge. The villainy you teach me, I will execute; and it shall go hard, but I will better the instruction. 67

*Enter a SERVANT.*

*Ser.* Gentlemen, my master Antonio is at his house, and desires to speak with you both.

*Salar.* We have been up and down to seek him.

*Solan.* Here comes another of the tribe; a third cannot be matched, unless the devil himself turn Jew. 72  
[*Exeunt SOLANIO, SALARINO, and Servant.*

*Enter TUBAL.*

*Sky.* How now, Tubal, what news from Genoa? hast thou found my daughter?

*Tub.* I often came where I did hear of her, but cannot find her. 76

*Sky.* Why, there, there, there, there! a diamond gone, cost me two thousand ducats in Frankfort! The curse never fell upon our nation till now; I never felt it till now:—two thousand ducats in that; and other precious, precious jewels.—I would, my daughter were dead at my foot, and the jewels in her ear! 'would she were hearsed at my foot, and the ducats in her coffin! No news of them?—Why, so:—and I know not what's spent in the search. Why, then, loss upon loss! the thief gone with so

much, and so much to find the thief ; and no satisfaction, no revenge : nor no ill luck stirring, but what lights o' my shoulders ; no sighs, but o' my breathing ; no tears, but o' my shedding. 90

*Tub.* Yes, other men have ill luck too ; Antonio, as I heard in Genoa,—

*Shy.* What, what, what ? ill luck, ill luck ?

*Tub.* —hath an argosy cast away, coming from Tripolis. 95

*Shy.* I thank God ! I thank God ! Is it true ? is it true ?

*Tub.* I spoke with some of the sailors that escaped the wreck.

*Shy.* I thank thee, good Tubal ;—Good news, good news ! ha ! ha !—Where ? in Genoa ? 101

*Tub.* Your daughter spent in Genoa, as I heard, one night, fourscore ducats.

*Shy.* Thou stick'st a dagger in me :—I shall never see my gold again. Fourscore ducats at a sitting ! fourscore ducats ! 106

*Tub.* There came divers of Antonio's creditors in my company to Venice, that swear he cannot choose but break.

*Shy.* I am very glad of it : I'll plague him ; I'll torture him : I am glad of it. 111

*Tub.* One of them showed me a ring, that he had of your daughter for a monkey.

*Shy.* Out upon her ! Thou torturest me, Tubal : it was my turquoise ; I had it of Leah, when I was a bachelor : I would not have given it for a wilderness of monkeys. 117

*Tub.* But Antonio is certainly undone.

*Shy.* Nay, that's true, that's very true. Go, Tubal,

fee me an officer, bespeak him a fortnight before. I will have the heart of him, if he forfeit ; for were he out of Venice, I can make what merchandise I will. Go, Tubal, and meet me at our synagogue ; go, good Tubal ; at our synagogue, Tubal. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. *Belmont. A room in Portia's house.*

*Enter BASSANIO, PORTIA, GRATIANO, NERISSA, and Attendants. The caskets are set out.*

*Por.* I pray you, tarry : pause a day or two,  
Before you hazard ; for, in choosing wrong,  
I lose your company ; therefore, forbear a while.  
There's something tells me, (but it is not love,)  
I would not lose you ; and you know yourself, 5  
Hate counsels not in such a quality :  
But lest you should not understand me well,  
(And yet a maiden hath no tongue but thought,)  
I would detain you here some month or two,  
Before you venture for me. I could teach you, 10  
How to choose right, but then I am forsworn ;  
So will I never be : so may you miss me ;  
But if you do, you'll make me wish a sin,  
That I had been forsworn. Beshrew your eyes,  
They have o'er-look'd me, and divided me ; 15  
One half of me is yours, the other half yours,—  
Mine own, I would say ; but if mine, then yours,  
And so all yours ! O ! these naughty times  
Put bars between the owners and their rights ;  
And so, though yours, not yours.—Prove it so, 20  
Let Fortune go to hell for it,—not I.  
I speak too long : but 'tis to piece the time



To eke it, and to draw it out in length,  
To stay you from election.

*Bass.* Let me choose ;  
For, as I am, I live upon the rack. 25

*Por.* Upon the rack, Bassanio? then confess  
What treason there is mingled with your love.

*Bass.* None, but that ugly treason of mistrust,  
Which makes me fear the enjoying of my love.  
There may as well be amity and life 30  
'Tween snow and fire, as treason and my love.

*Por.* Ay, but I fear you speak upon the rack,  
Where men enforcèd do speak any thing.

*Bass.* Promise me life, and I'll confess the truth.

*Por.* Well then, confess, and live.

*Bass.* Confess, and love,  
Had been the very sum of my confession : 36  
O happy torment, when my torturer  
Doth teach me answers for deliverance!  
But let me to my fortune and the caskets.

*Por.* Away then: I am lock'd in one of them ; 40  
If you do love me, you will find me out.—  
Nerissa, and the rest, stand all aloof.—  
Let music sound, while he doth make his choice ;  
Then, if he lose, he makes a swan-like end,  
Fading in music: that the comparison 45  
May stand more proper, my eye shall be the stream  
And watery death-bed for him. He may win ;  
And what is music then? then music is  
Even as the flourish when true subjects bow  
To a new-crownèd monarch: such it is, 50  
As are those dulcet sounds in break of day,  
That creep into the dreaming bridegroom's ear,  
And summon him to marriage. Now he goes,

With no less presence, but with much more love,  
 Than young Alcides, when he did redeem 55  
 The virgin tribute paid by howling Troy  
 To the sea-monster: I stand for sacrifice;  
 The rest aloof are the Dardanian wives,  
 With bleared visages, come forth to view  
 The issue of the exploit. Go, Hercules! 60  
 Live thou, I live:—With much-much more dismay  
 I view the fight, than thou that mak'st the fray.

SONG, *while BASSANIO comments on the caskets to himself.*

1. *Tell me, where is fancy bred,  
 Or in the heart or in the head?  
 How begot, how nourished?* 65  
*Reply, reply.*
2. *It is engender'd in the eyes,  
 With gazing fed; and fancy dies  
 In the cradle where it lies:  
 Let us all ring fancy's knell;  
 I'll begin it,—Ding, dong, bell.* 70

All. *Ding, dong, bell.*

*Bass.* So may the outward shows be least themselves:—

The world is still deceiv'd with ornament.  
 In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt, 75  
 But, being season'd with a gracious voice,  
 Obscures the show of evil? In religion,  
 What damnèd error, but some sober brow  
 Will bless it, and approve it with a text,  
 Hiding the grossness with fair ornament? 80  
 There is no vice so simple, but assumes

Some mark of virtue on his outward parts.  
How many cowards, whose hearts are all as false  
As stairs of sand, wear yet upon their chins  
The beards of Hercules, and frowning Mars ;      85  
Who, inward search'd, have livers white as milk ;  
And these assume but valour's excrement,  
To render them redoubted. Look on beauty,  
And you shall see 'tis purchas'd by the weight ;  
Which therein works a miracle in nature,      90  
Making them lightest that wear most of it :  
So are those crispèd snaky golden locks,  
Which make such wanton gambols with the wind,  
Upon supposed fairness, often known  
To be the dowry of a second head,      95  
The scull that bred them, in the sepulchre.  
Thus ornament is but the guilèd shore  
To a most dangerous sea ; the beauteous scarf  
Veiling an Indian beauty ; in a word,  
The seeming truth which cunning times put on      100  
To entrap the wisest. Therefore, thou gaudy gold,  
Hard food for Midas, I will none of thee :  
Nor none of thee, thou pale and common drudge  
'Tween man and man : but thou, thou meagre lead,  
Which rather threat'nest than dost promise aught,  
Thy plainness moves me more than eloquence,      106  
And here choose I. Joy be the consequence !

*Por.* How all the other passions fleet to air,—  
As doubtful thoughts, and rash-embrac'd despair,  
And shudd'ring fear and green-ey'd jealousy !      110  
O love, be moderate ; allay thy ecstasy ;  
In measure rain thy joy ; scant this excess ;  
I feel too much thy blessing ; make it less,  
For fear I surfeit !

*Bass.* [*Opening the leaden casket.*] What find I here?

Fair Portia's counterfeit ! What demi-god 115  
Hath come so near creation ? Move these eyes ?  
Or whether, riding on the balls of mine,



'What find I here? Fair Portia's counterfeit.'

Seem they in motion ? Here are sever'd lips,  
Parted with sugar breath ; so sweet a bar  
Should sunder such sweet friends. Here in her hairs  
The painter plays the spider ; and hath woven 121  
A golden mesh, to entrap the hearts of men

Faster than gnats in cobwebs ! But her eyes,—  
 How could he see to do them ? having made one,  
 Methinks, it should have power to steal both his, 125  
 And leave itself unfurnish'd. Yet look, how far  
 The substance of my praise doth wrong this shadow  
 In underprizing it, so far this shadow  
 Doth limp behind the substance.—Here's the scroll,  
 The continent and summary of my fortune. 130

*You that choose not by the view,  
 Chance as fair, and choose as true !  
 Since this fortune falls to you,  
 Be content, and seek no new.  
 If you be well pleas'd with this, 135  
 And hold your fortune for your bliss,  
 Turn you where your lady is,  
 And claim her with a loving kiss.*

A gentle scroll.—Fair lady, by your leave ; [*Kissing her.*  
 I come by note, to give and to receive. 140  
 Like one of two contending in a prize,  
 That thinks he hath done well in people's eyes,  
 Hearing applause and universal shout,  
 Giddy in spirit, still gazing, in a doubt  
 Whether those peals of praise be his or no : 145  
 So, thrice fair lady, stand I, even so ;  
 As doubtful whether what I see be true,  
 Until confirm'd, sign'd, ratified by you.

*Por.* You see me, lord Bassanio, where I stand,  
 Such as I am : though, for myself alone, 150  
 I would not be ambitious in my wish,  
 To wish myself much better ; yet, for you  
 I would be trebled twenty times myself ;

A thousand times more fair, ten thousand times more  
rich :

That, only to stand high in your account, 155  
I might in virtues, beauties, livings, friends,  
Exceed account ; but the full sum of me  
Is sum of nothing ; which, to term in gross,  
Is an unlesson'd girl, unschool'd, unpractis'd :  
Happy in this, she is not yet so old 160  
But she may learn ; happier than this,  
She is not bred so dull but she can learn ;  
Happiest of all, is, that her gentle spirit  
Commits itself to yours to be directed,  
As from her lord, her governor, her king. 165  
Myself, and what is mine, to you and yours  
Is now converted : but now, I was the lord  
Of this fair mansion, master of my servants,  
Queen o'er myself ; and even now, but now,  
This house, these servants, and this same myself, 170  
Are yours, my lord : I give them with this ring ;  
Which when you part from, lose, or give away,  
Let it presage the ruin of your love;  
And be my vantage to exclaim on you.

*Bass.* Madam, you have bereft me of all words :  
Only my blood speaks to you in my veins ; 176  
And there is such confusion in my powers,  
As, after some oration fairly spoke  
By a belovèd prince, there doth appear  
Among the buzzing pleasèd multitude ; 180  
Where every something, being blent together,  
Turns to a wild of nothing, save of joy,  
Express'd, and not express'd. But when this ring  
Parts from this finger, then parts life from hence :  
O, then be bold to say, Bassanio's dead. 185

*Ner.* My lord and lady, it is now our time, 186  
That have stood by, and seen our wishes prosper,  
To cry, *Good joy.* Good joy, my lord and lady !

*Grat.* My lord Bassanio, and my gentle lady,  
I wish you all the joy that you can wish ; 190  
For, I am sure, you can wish none from me ;  
And, when your honours mean to solemnise  
The bargain of your faith, I do beseech you,  
Even at that time I may be married too. 194

*Bass.* With all my heart, so thou canst get a wife.

*Grat.* I thank your lordship ; you have got me  
one.

My eyes, my lord, can look as swift as yours :  
You saw the mistress, I beheld the maid ;  
You lov'd, I lov'd ; for intermission  
No more pertains to me, my lord, than you. 200  
Your fortune stood upon the caskets there :  
And so did mine too, as the matter falls ;  
For wooing here, until I sweat again,  
And swearing, till my very roof was dry  
With oaths of love, at last,—if promise last,— 205  
I got a promise of this fair one here,  
To have her love, provided that your fortune  
Achiev'd her mistress.

*Por.* Is this true, Nerissa ?

*Ner.* Madam, it is, so you stand pleas'd withal.

*Bass.* And do you, Gratiano, mean good faith ?

*Grat.* Yes, 'faith, my lord. 211

*Bass.* Our feast shall be much honour'd in your  
marriage.

*Grat.* But who comes here ? Lorenzo, and his  
infidel.

What, and my old Venetian friend, Solanio ?

*Enter* LORENZO, JESSICA, *and* SOLANIO.

*Bass.* Lorenzo and Solanio, welcome hither ; 215  
If that the youth of my new interest here  
Have power to bid you welcome.—By your leave,  
I bid my very friends and countrymen,  
Sweet Portia, welcome.

*Por.* So do I, my lord ;  
They are entirely welcome. 220

*Lor.* I thank your honour :—For my part, my lord,  
My purpose was not to have seen you here ;  
But, meeting with Solanio by the way,  
He did entreat me, past all saying nay,  
To come with him along.

*Solan.* I did, my lord ; 225  
And I have reason for it. Signor Antonio  
Commends him to you. [*Gives BASSANIO a letter.*

*Bass.* Ere I ope this letter,  
I pray you, tell me how my good friend doth.

*Solan.* Not sick, my lord, unless it be in mind ;  
Nor well, unless in mind : his letter there 230  
Will show you his estate. [*BASS. reads.*

*Grat.* Nerissa, cheer yond stranger ; bid her wel-  
come.

Your hand, Solanio. What's the news from Venice ?  
How doth that royal merchant, good Antonio ?  
I know, he will be glad of our success ; 235  
We are the Jasons, we have won the fleece.

*Solan.* I would you had won the fleece that he  
hath lost !

*Por.* There are some shrewd contents in yond same  
paper,  
That steal the colour from Bassanio's cheek :



Some dear friend dead ; else nothing in the world 240  
 Could turn so much the constitution  
 Of any constant man. What, worse and worse ?—  
 With leave, Bassanio ; I am half yourself,  
 And I must freely have the half of any thing  
 That this same paper brings you.

*Bass.*

O sweet Portia,

Here are a few of the unpleasant'st words, 246  
 That ever blotted paper ! Gentle lady,  
 When I did first impart my love to you,  
 I freely told you, all the wealth I had  
 Ran in my veins,—I was a gentleman ; 250  
 And then I told you true : and yet, dear lady,  
 Rating myself at nothing, you shall see  
 How much I was a braggart. When I told you  
 My state was nothing, I should then have told you  
 That I was worse than nothing ; for, indeed, 255  
 I have engag'd myself to a dear friend,  
 Engag'd my friend to his mere enemy,  
 To feed my means. Here is a letter, lady ;  
 The paper as the body of my friend,  
 And every word in it a gaping wound, 260  
 Issuing life-blood.—But is it true, Solanio ?  
 Have all his ventures fail'd ? What, not one hit ?  
 From Tripolis, from Mexico, and England,  
 From Lisbon, Barbary, and India ?  
 And not one vessel 'scape the dreadful touch 265  
 Of merchant-marring rocks ?

*Solan.*

Not one, my lord.

Besides, it should appear, that if he had  
 The present money to discharge the Jew,  
 He would not take it. Never did I know  
 A creature, that did bear the shape of man, 270

So keen and greedy to confound a man. 271  
He plies the duke at morning, and at night,  
And doth impeach the freedom of the state,  
If they deny him justice : twenty merchants,  
The duke himself, and the magnificoes 275  
Of greatest port, have all persuaded with him ;  
But none can drive him from the envious plea  
Of forfeiture, of justice, and his bond.

*Jess.* When I was with him, I have heard him  
swear,

To Tubal, and to Chus, his countrymen, 280  
That he would rather have Antonio's flesh,  
Than twenty times the value of the sum  
That he did owe him : and I know, my lord,  
If law, authority, and power deny not,  
It will go hard with poor Antonio. 285

*Por.* Is it your dear friend, that is thus in trouble ?

*Bass.* The dearest friend to me, the kindest man,  
The best-condition'd and unwearied spirit  
In doing courtesies ; and one in whom  
The ancient Roman honour more appears, 290  
Than any that draws breath in Italy.

*Por.* What sum owes he the Jew ?

*Bass.* For me, three thousand ducats.

*Por.* What, no more ?

Pay him six thousand, and deface the bond ;  
Double six thousand, and then treble that, 295  
Before a friend of this description  
Shall lose a hair through Bassanio's fault.  
First, go with me to church, and call me wife :  
And then away to Venice to your friend ;  
For never shall you lie by Portia's side 300  
With an unquiet soul. You shall have gold

To pay the petty debt twenty times over ;  
 When it is paid, bring your true friend along.  
 My maid Nerissa, and myself, meantime,  
 Will live as maids and widows. Come, away ! 305  
 For you shall hence upon your wedding-day.  
 Bid your friends welcome, show a merry cheer ;  
 Since you are dear-bought, I will love you dear.—  
 But let me hear the letter of your friend. 309

*Bass.* [Reads.] *Sweet Bassanio, my ships have all miscarried, my creditors grow cruel, my estate is very low, my bond to the Jew is forfeit ; and since, in paying it, it is impossible I should live, all debts are cleared between you and I, if I might but see you at my death. Notwithstanding, use your pleasure : if your love do not persuade you to come, let not my letter.* 316

*Por.* O love, despatch all business, and be gone.

*Bass.* Since I have your good leave to go away,  
 I will make haste : but, till I come again,  
 No bed shall e'er be guilty of my stay,  
 No rest be interposer 'twixt us twain. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III. *Venice. A street.*

*Enter SHYLOCK, SALARINO, ANTONIO, and JAILER.*

*Shy.* Jailer, look to him.—Tell not me of mercy ;—  
 This is the fool that lent out money gratis.—  
 Jailer, look to him.

*Ant.* Hear me yet, good Shylock.

*Shy.* I'll have my bond ; speak not against my bond :

I have sworn an oath, that I will have my bond : 5

Thou call'dst me dog before thou hadst a cause :  
 But, since I am a dog, beware my fangs :  
 The duke shall grant me justice.—I do wonder,  
 Thou naughty jailer, that thou art so fond  
 To come abroad with him at his request.

10

*Ant.* I pray thee, hear me speak.



'I'll have my bond ; I will not hear thee speak.'

*Shy.* I'll have my bond ; I will not hear thee speak :  
 I'll have my bond ; and therefore speak no more.  
 I'll not be made a soft and dull-ey'd fool,  
 To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yield 15  
 To Christian intercessors. Follow not ;  
 I'll have no speaking : I'll have my bond. [*Exit.*

*Salar.* It is the most impenetrable cur

That ever kept with men.

*Ant.* Let him alone ;  
 I'll follow him no more with bootless prayers. 20  
 He seeks my life ; his reason well I know :  
 I oft deliver'd from his forfeitures  
 Many that have at times made moan to me ;  
 Therefore he hates me.

*Salar.* I am sure the duke  
 Will never grant this forfeiture to hold. 25

*Ant.* The duke cannot deny the course of law,  
 For the commodity that strangers have  
 With us in Venice ; if it be denied,  
 'Twill much impeach the justice of the state ;  
 Since that the trade and profit of the city 30  
 Consisteth of all nations. Therefore, go :  
 These griefs and losses have so bated me,  
 That I shall hardly spare a pound of flesh  
 To-morrow to my bloody creditor.—  
 Well, jailer, on.—Pray God Bassanio come 35  
 To see me pay his debt, and then I care not ! [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV. *Belmont. A room in Portia's house.*

*Enter* PORTIA, NERISSA, LORENZO, JESSICA, and  
 BALTHAZAR.

*Lor.* Madam, although I speak it in your presence,  
 You have a noble and a true conceit  
 Of god-like amity ; which appears most strongly  
 In bearing thus the absence of your lord.  
 But, if you knew to whom you show this honour, 5  
 How true a gentleman you send relief,  
 How dear a lover of my lord your husband,

I know you would be prouder of the work,  
Than customary bounty can enforce you.

*Por.* I never did repent for doing good, 10  
Nor shall not now : for in companions  
That do converse and waste the time together,  
Whose souls do bear an equal yoke of love,  
There must be needs a like proportion  
Of lineaments, of manners, and of spirit ; 15  
Which makes me think, that this Antonio,  
Being the bosom lover of my lord,  
Must needs be like my lord. If it be so,  
How little is the cost I have bestow'd,  
In purchasing the semblance of my soul 20  
From out the state of hellish cruelty?  
This comes too near the praising of myself ;  
Therefore, no more of it : hear other things.--  
Lorenzo, I commit into your hands  
The husbandry and manage of my house, 25  
Until my lord's return ; for mine own part,  
I have toward heaven breath'd a secret vow  
To live in prayer and contemplation,  
Only attended by Nerissa here,  
Until her husband and my lord's return : 30  
There is a monastery two miles off,  
And there we will abide. I do desire you  
Not to deny this imposition ;  
The which my love, and some necessity,  
Now lays upon you.

*Lor.* Madam, with all my heart ; 35  
I shall obey you in all fair commands.

*Por.* My people do already know my mind,  
And will acknowledge you and Jessica  
In place of lord Bassanio and myself.

So fare you well, till we shall meet again. 40

*Lor.* Fair thoughts, and happy hours, attend on you!

*Jess.* I wish your ladyship all heart's content.

*Por.* I thank you for your wish, and am well pleas'd

To wish it back on you : fare you well, Jessica.—

[*Exeunt* JESSICA and LORENZO.]

Now, Balthazar, 45

As I have ever found thee honest-true,

So let me find thee still. Take this same letter,

And use thou all the endeavour of a man

In speed to Padua ; see thou render this

Into my cousin's hand, doctor Bellario ; 50

And, look, what notes and garments he doth give thee,

Bring them, I pray thee, with imagin'd speed

Unto the traject, to the common ferry

Which trades to Venice. Waste no time in words,

But get thee gone : I shall be there before thee. 55

*Bal.* Madam, I go with all convenient speed. [*Exit.*]

*Por.* Come on, Nerissa ; I have work in hand,  
That you yet know not of : we'll see our husbands  
Before they think of us.

*Ner.* Shall they see us ?

*Por.* They shall, Nerissa ; but in such a habit, 60  
That they shall think we are accomplished

With what we lack. I'll hold thee any wager,

When we are both accoutred like young men,

I'll prove the prettier fellow of the two,

And wear my dagger with the braver grace ; 65

And speak, between the change of man and boy,

With a reed voice ; and turn two mincing steps

Into a manly stride ; and speak of frays,

Like a fine bragging youth ; and tell quaint lies,  
How honourable ladies sought my love, 70  
Which, I denying, they fell sick and died ;  
I could not do withal : then I'll repent,  
And wish, for all that, that I had not kill'd them ;  
And twenty of these puny lies I'll tell, 74  
That men shall swear, I have discontinued school  
Above a twelvemonth. I have within my mind  
A thousand raw tricks of these bragging Jacks,  
Which I will practise.  
But come, I'll tell thee all my whole device  
When I am in my coach, which stays for us 80  
At the park gate ; and therefore haste away,  
For we must measure twenty miles to-day. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE V. *Belmont. A Garden.*

*Enter* LORENZO, JESSICA, and LAUNCELOT.

*Lor.* Go in, sirrah ; bid them prepare for dinner.

*Laun.* That is done, sir ; they have all stomachs.

*Lor.* Goodly lord, what a wit-snapper are you !  
then bid them prepare dinner.

*Laun.* That is done too, sir ; only, cover is the  
word. 6

*Lor.* Will you cover, then, sir ?

*Laun.* Not so, sir, neither ; I know my duty.

*Lor.* Yet more quarrelling with occasion ! Wilt  
thou show the whole wealth of thy wit in an instant ?  
I pray thee, understand a plain man in his plain  
meaning : go to thy fellows ; bid them cover the table,  
serve in the meat, and we will come in to dinner. 13

*Laun.* For the table, sir, it shall be served in ; for



the meat, sir, it shall be covered ; for your coming in to dinner, sir, why, let it be as humours and conceits shall govern. *[Exit LAUNCELOT.]*

*Lor.* O dear discretion, how his words are suited !  
The fool hath planted in his memory 19  
An army of good words ; and I do know  
A many fools, that stand in better place,  
Garnish'd like him, that for a tricky word  
Defy the matter. How cheer'st thou, Jessica ? 23  
And now, good sweet, say thy opinion :—  
How dost thou like the lord Bassanio's wife ?

*Jess.* Past all expressing. It is very meet,  
The lord Bassanio live an upright life ; 27  
For, having such a blessing in his lady,  
He finds the joys of heaven here on earth ;  
And, if on earth he do not mean it, it  
Is reason he should never come to heaven.  
Why, if two gods should play some heavenly match,  
And on the wager lay two earthly women, 33  
And Portia one, there must be something else  
Pawn'd with the other ; for the poor rude world  
Hath not her fellow.

*Lor.* Even such a husband  
Hast thou of me, as she is for a wife. 37

*Jess.* Nay, but ask my opinion too of that.

*Lor.* I will anon ; first, let us go to dinner.

*Jess.* Nay, let me praise you, while I have a stomach.

*Lor.* No, pray thee, let it serve for table-talk ; 42  
Then, howsoe'er thou speak'st, 'mong other things  
I shall digest it.

*Jess.* Well, I'll set you forth. *[Exeunt.]*

## ACT IV.

SCENE I. *Venice. A Court of Justice.*

*Enter the DUKE, the MAGNIFICOS, ANTONIO, BASSANIO, GRATIANO, SALARINO, SOLANIO, and others.*

*Duke.* What, is Antonio here ?

*Ant.* Ready, so please your grace.

*Duke.* I am sorry for thee ; thou art come to answer  
A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch  
Uncapable of pity, void and empty 5  
From any dram of mercy.

*Ant.* I have heard  
Your grace hath ta'en great pains to qualify  
His rigorous course ; but, since he stands obdurate,  
And that no lawful means can carry me  
Out of his envy's reach, I do oppose 10  
My patience to his fury ; and am arm'd  
To suffer, with a quietness of spirit,  
The very tyranny and rage of his.

*Duke.* Go one, and call the Jew into the court. 14

*Solan.* He's ready at the door : he comes, my lord.

*Enter SHYLOCK.*

*Duke.* Make room, and let him stand before our  
face.—

Shylock, the world thinks, and I think so too,  
That thou but lead'st this fashion of thy malice  
To the last hour of act ; and then, 'tis thought, 19  
Thou'lt show thy mercy and remorse, more strange

Than is thy strange apparent cruelty: 21  
And where thou now exact'st the penalty,  
(Which is a pound of this poor merchant's flesh,)  
Thou wilt not only loose the forfeiture,  
But, touch'd with human gentleness and love, 25  
Forgive a moiety of the principal;  
Glancing an eye of pity on his losses,  
That have of late so huddled on his back,  
Enough to press a royal merchant down,  
And pluck commiseration of his state 30  
From brassy bosoms, and rough hearts of flint,  
From stubborn Turks and Tartars, never train'd  
To offices of tender courtesy.

We all expect a gentle answer, Jew.

*Shy.* I have possess'd your grace of what I purpose ;  
And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn 36  
To have the due and forfeit of my bond :  
If you deny it, let the danger light  
Upon your charter, and your city's freedom.  
You'll ask me, why I rather choose to have 40  
A weight of carrion flesh, than to receive  
Three thousand ducats: I'll not answer that:  
But, say, it is my humour; is it answer'd?  
What if my house be troubled with a rat,  
And I be pleas'd to give ten thousand ducats 45  
To have it ban'd? What, are you answer'd yet?  
Some men there are, love not a gaping pig;  
Some, that are mad if they behold a cat;—  
As there is no firm reason to be render'd,  
Why he cannot abide a gaping pig; 50  
Why he, a harmless necessary cat;  
So can I give no reason, nor I will not,  
More than a lodg'd hate, and a certain loathing

I bear Antonio, that I follow thus  
A losing suit against him. Are you answer'd? 55

*Bass.* This is no answer, thou unfeeling man,  
To excuse the current of thy cruelty.

*Shy.* I am not bound to please thee with my answer.

*Bass.* Do all men kill the things they do not love?

*Shy.* Hates any man the thing he would not kill?

*Bass.* Every offence is not a hate at first. 61

*Shy.* What, would'st thou have a serpent sting thee  
twice?

*Ant.* I pray you, think you question with the Jew:  
You may as well go stand upon the beach,  
And bid the main flood bate his usual height; 65  
You may as well use question with the wolf,  
Why he hath made the ewe bleat for the lamb;  
You may as well forbid the mountain pines  
To wag their high tops, and to make no noise,  
When they are fretted with the gusts of heaven; 70  
You may as well do any thing most hard,  
As seek to soften that, (than which what's harder?)  
His Jewish heart.—Therefore, I do beseech you,  
Make no more offers, use no further means;  
But, with all brief and plain conveniency, 75  
Let me have judgment, and the Jew his will.

*Bass.* For thy three thousand ducats here is six.

*Shy.* If every ducat in six thousand ducats  
Were in six parts, and every part a ducat,  
I would not draw them; I would have my bond. 80

*Duke.* How shalt thou hope for mercy, rend'ring  
none?

*Shy.* What judgment shall I dread, doing no  
wrong?

You have among you many a purchas'd slave,

Which, like your asses, and your dogs, and mules,  
You use in abject and in slavish parts, 85  
Because you bought them.—Shall I say to you,  
Let them be free, marry them to your heirs ?  
Why sweat they under burdens ? let their beds  
Be made as soft as yours, and let their palates  
Be season'd with such viands ? You will answer :— 90  
The slaves are ours.—So do I answer you :  
The pound of flesh, which I demand of him,  
Is dearly bought ; 'tis mine, and I will have it :  
If you deny me, fie upon your law !  
There is no force in the decrees of Venice. 95  
I stand for judgment : answer ; shall I have it ?

*Duke.* Upon my power, I may dismiss this court,  
Unless Bellario, a learnèd doctor,  
Whom I have sent for to determine this,  
Come here to-day.

*Salar.* My lord, here stays without 100  
A messenger with letters from the doctor,  
New come from Padua.

*Duke.* Bring us the letters. Call the messenger.

*Bass.* Good cheer, Antonio ! What, man ! courage  
yet !

The Jew shall have my flesh, blood, bones, and all, 105  
Ere thou shalt lose for me one drop of blood.

*Ant.* I am a tainted wether of the flock,  
Meetest for death ; the weakest kind of fruit  
Drops earliest to the ground ; and so let me :  
You cannot better be employ'd, Bassanio, 110  
Than to live still, and write mine epitaph.

*Enter NERISSA, dressed like a Lawyer's Clerk.*

*Duke.* Came you from Padua, from Bellario ?

*Ner.* From both, my lord : Bellario greets your  
grace. [*Presents a letter.*]

*Bass.* Why dost thou whet thy knife so earnestly?

*Shy.* To cut the forfeiture from that bankrupt  
there. 115

*Grat.* Not on thy sole, but on thy soul, harsh Jew,  
Thou mak'st thy knife keen : but no metal can,  
No, not the hangman's axe, bear half the keenness  
Of thy sharp envy. Can no prayers pierce thee?

*Shy.* No, none that thou hast wit enough to make.

*Grat.* O, be thou damn'd, inexorable dog ! 121  
And for thy life let justice be accus'd.

Thou almost mak'st me waver in my faith,  
To hold opinion with Pythagoras,  
That souls of animals infuse themselves 125

Into the trunks of men : thy currish spirit  
Govern'd a wolf, who, hang'd for human slaughter,

Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet,  
And, whilst thou lay'st in thy unhallow'd dam,

Infus'd itself in thee ; for thy desires 130  
Are wolfish, bloody, starv'd, and ravenous.

*Shy.* Till thou canst rail the seal from off my  
bond,

Thou but offend'st thy lungs to speak so loud :  
Repair thy wit, good youth, or it will fall  
To cureless ruin.—I stand here for law. 135

*Duke.* This letter from Bellario doth commend  
A young and learned doctor to our court :—  
Where is he ?

*Ner.* He attendeth here hard by,  
To know your answer, whether you'll admit him.

*Duke.* With all my heart :—some three or four of  
you, 140

Go give him courteous conduct to this place.—  
Meantime, the court shall hear Bellario's letter.

[Clerk reads.] *Your grace shall understand, that, at the receipt of your letter, I am very sick : but in the instant that your messenger came, in loving visitation was with me a young doctor of Rome ; his name is Balthazar : I acquainted him with the cause in controversy between the Jew and Antonio the merchant : we turned o'er many books together : he is furnish'd with my opinion ; which, better'd with his own learning, (the greatness whereof I cannot enough commend,) comes with him, at my importunity, to fill up your grace's request in my stead. I beseech you, let his lack of years be no impediment to let him lack a reverend estimation ; for I never knew so young a body with so old a head. I leave him to your gracious acceptance, whose trial shall better publish his commendation.*

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*Duke.* You hear the learn'd Bellario, what he writes :  
And here, I take it, is the doctor come.—

*Enter PORTIA, dressed like a Doctor of Laws.*

Give me your hand. Came you from old Bellario ? 160

*Por.* I did, my lord.

*Duke.* You are welcome : take your place.  
Are you acquainted with the difference  
That holds this present question in the court ?

*Por.* I am informèd throughly of the cause.  
Which is the merchant here, and which the Jew ? 165

*Duke.* Antonio and old Shylock, both stand forth.

*Por.* Is your name Shylock ?

*Shy.* Shylock is my name.

*Por.* Of a strange nature is the suit you follow ;  
Yet in such rule, that the Venetian law

Cannot impugn you, as you do proceed.— 170

[To ANT.] You stand within his danger, do you not ?

*Ant.* Ay, so he says.

*Por.* Do you confess the bond ?

*Ant.* I do.

*Por.* Then must the Jew be merciful.

*Shy.* On what compulsion must I ? tell me that.

*Por.* The quality of mercy is not strain'd ; 175

It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven,

Upon the place beneath : it is twice bless'd ;

It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes :

'Tis mightiest in the mightiest ; it becomes

The thronèd monarch better than his crown : 180

His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,

The attribute to awe and majesty,

Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings ;

But mercy is above his scepter'd sway,—

It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings, 185

It is an attribute to God himself ;

And earthly power doth then show likest God's

When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,

Though justice be thy plea, consider this,—

That, in the course of justice, none of us 190

Should see salvation : we do pray for mercy ;

And that same prayer doth teach us all to render

The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much,

To mitigate the justice of thy plea ;

Which, if thou follow, this strict court of Venice 195

Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant there.

*Shy.* My deeds upon my head ! I crave the law,  
The penalty and forfeit of my bond.

*Por.* Is he not able to discharge the money ?

*Bass.* Yes, here I tender it for him in the court ;



Yea, twice the sum : if that will not suffice, 201  
I will be bound to pay it ten times o'er,  
On forfeit of my hands, my head, my heart :  
If this will not suffice, it must appear  
That malice bears down truth. And I beseech you,  
Wrest once the law to your authority : 206  
To do a great right, do a little wrong,  
And curb this cruel devil of his will.

*Por.* It must not be ; there is no power in Venice  
Can alter a decree establishèd : 210  
'Twill be recorded for a precedent ;  
And many an error, by the same example,  
Will rush into the state : it cannot be.

*Shy.* A Daniel come to judgment ! yea, a Daniel !  
O wise young judge, how I do honour thee ! 215

*Por.* I pray you, let me look upon the bond.

*Shy.* Here 'tis, most reverend doctor, here it is.

*Por.* Shylock, there's thrice thy money offer'd  
thee.

*Shy.* An oath, an oath, I have an oath in heaven :  
Shall I lay perjury upon my soul ? 220  
No, not for Venice.

*Por.* Why, this bond is forfeit ;  
And lawfully by this the Jew may claim  
A pound of flesh, to be by him cut off  
Nearest the merchant's heart.—Be merciful ;  
Take thrice thy money ; bid me tear the bond. 225

*Shy.* When it is paid according to the tenour.—  
It doth appear you are a worthy judge ;  
You know the law, your exposition  
Hath been most sound : I charge you by the law,  
Whereof you are a well-deserving pillar, 230  
Proceed to judgment : by my soul I swear,

There is no power in the tongue of man  
To alter me : I stay here on my bond.

*Ant.* Most heartily I do beseech the court  
To give the judgment.

*Por.* Why then, thus it is :— 235  
You must prepare your bosom for his knife.

*Shy.* O noble judge ! O excellent young man !

*Por.* For the intent and purpose of the law  
Hath full relation to the penalty,  
Which here appeareth due upon the bond. 240

*Shy.* 'Tis very true : O wise and upright judge !  
How much more elder art thou than thy looks !

*Por.* Therefore, lay bare your bosom.

*Shy.* Ay, his breast :  
So says the bond ;— doth it not, noble judge ?—

*Nearest his heart* : those are the very words. 245

*Por.* It is so. Are there balance here, to weigh  
the flesh ?

*Shy.* I have them ready.

*Por.* Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your  
charge,

To stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death.

*Shy.* Is it so nominated in the bond ? 250

*Por.* It is not so express'd : but what of that ?

'Twere good you do so much for charity.

*Shy.* I cannot find it ; 'tis not in the bond.

*Por.* Come, merchant, have you any thing to say ?

*Ant.* But little ; I am arm'd, and well prepar'd.—

Give me your hand, Bassanio ; fare you well ! 256

Grieve not that I am fallen to this for you ;  
For herein Fortune shows herself more kind

Than is her custom : it is still her use,

To let the wretched man out-live his wealth, 260

To view with hollow eye, and wrinkled brow,  
An age of poverty ; from which lingering penance  
Of such misery doth she cut me off.

Commend me to your honourable wife :

Tell her the process of Antonio's end ; 265

Say, how I lov'd you, speak me fair in death ;

And, when the tale is told, bid her be judge,

Whether Bassanio had not once a love.

Repent not you that you shall lose your friend,

And he repents not that he pays your debt ; 270

For, if the Jew do cut but deep enough,

I'll pay it instantly with all my heart.

*Bass.* Antonio, I am married to a wife,

Which is as dear to me as life itself ;

But life itself, my wife, and all the world, 275

Are not with me esteem'd above thy life :

I would lose all, ay, sacrifice them all

Here to this devil, to deliver you.

*Por.* Your wife would give you little thanks for  
that,

If she were by to hear you make the offer. 280

*Grat.* I have a wife, whom, I protest, I love ;

I would she were in heaven, so she could

Entreat some power to change this currish Jew.

*Ner.* 'Tis well you offer it behind her back ;

The wish would make else an unquiet house. 285

*Shy.* [*Aside.*] These be the Christian husbands !

I have a daughter ;

Would any of the stock of Barrabas

Had been her husband, rather than a Christian !

[*To POR.*] We trifle time ; I pray thee, pursue sentence.

*Por.* A pound of that same merchant's flesh is  
thine : 290

The court awards it, and the law doth give it.

*Shy.* Most rightful judge !

*Por.* And you must cut this flesh from off his breast :  
The law allows it, and the court awards it.

*Shy.* Most learnèd judge !—A sentence ! come,  
prepare. 295

*Por.* Tarry a little ;—there is something else.  
This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood ;  
The words expressly are a pound of flesh :  
Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh ;  
But, in the cutting it, if thou dost shed  
One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods  
Are, by the laws of Venice, confiscate  
Unto the state of Venice. 303

*Grat.* O upright judge !—Mark, Jew :—O learnèd  
judge !

*Shy.* Is that the law ?

*Por.* ThyselF shall see the act :  
For, as thou urgest justice, be assur'd,  
Thou shalt have justice more than thou desir'st.

*Grat.* O learnèd judge !—Mark, Jew ;—a learnèd  
judge ! 308

*Shy.* I take this offer then ;—pay the bond thrice,  
And let the Christian go.

*Bass.* Here is the money.

*Por.* Soft !

The Jew shall have all justice ;—soft !—no haste :—  
He shall have nothing but the penalty. 313

*Grat.* O Jew ! an upright judge, a learnèd judge !

*Por.* Therefore, prepare thee to cut off the flesh.  
Shed thou no blood ; nor cut thou less, nor more,  
But just a pound of flesh : if thou tak'st more  
Or less than a just pound,—be it but so much 318

As makes it light, or heavy, in the substance  
Or the division of the twentieth part  
Of one poor scruple, nay, if the scale do turn  
But in the estimation of a hair,—  
Thou diest, and all thy goods are confiscate. 323

*Grat.* A second Daniel ! a Daniel, Jew !  
Now, infidel, I have thee on the hip.

*Por.* Why doth the Jew pause ? take thy forfeiture.

*Shy.* Give me my principal, and let me go.

*Bass.* I have it ready for thee ; here it is. 328

*Por.* He hath refus'd it in the open court :  
He shall have merely justice, and his bond.

*Grat.* A Daniel, still say I ; a second Daniel—  
I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word.

*Shy.* Shall I not have barely my principal ? 333

*Por.* Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture,  
To be so taken at thy peril, Jew.

*Shy.* Why, then the devil give him good of it !  
I'll stay no longer question.

*Por.* Tarry, Jew ;  
The law hath yet another hold on you. 338

It is enacted in the laws of Venice,—

If it be prov'd against an alien,

That, by direct or indirect attempts,

He seek the life of any citizen,

The party, 'gainst the which he doth contrive, 343

Shall seize one half his goods ; the other half

Comes to the privy coffer of the state ;

And the offender's life lies in the mercy

Of the duke only, 'gainst all other voice.

In which predicament, I say, thou stand'st : 348

For it appears, by manifest proceeding,

That, indirectly, and directly too,

Thou hast contriv'd against the very life  
Of the defendant : and thou hast incurr'd  
The danger formerly by me rehears'd. 353  
Down, therefore, and beg mercy of the duke.

*Grat.* Beg that thou mayst have leave to hang  
thyself :

And yet, thy wealth being forfeit to the state,  
Thou hast not left the value of a cord ;  
Therefore thou must be hang'd at the state's charge.

*Duke.* That thou shalt see the difference of our  
spirit, 359

I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it :  
For half thy wealth, it is Antonio's :  
The other half comes to the general state,  
Which humbleness may drive unto a fine. 363

*Por.* Ay, for the state ; not for Antonio.

*Shy.* Nay, take my life and all ; pardon not that :  
You take my house, when you do take the prop  
That doth sustain my house : you take my life,  
When you do take the means whereby I live. 368

*Por.* What mercy can you render him, Antonio ?

*Grat.* A halter gratis ; nothing else, for God's sake.

*Ant.* So please my lord the duke, and all the  
court,

To quit the fine for one half of his goods ;  
I am content,—so he will let me have 373  
The other half in use,—to render it,  
Upon his death, unto the gentleman  
That lately stole his daughter :  
Two things provided more,—that, for this favour,  
He presently become a Christian :  
The other, that he do record a gift,  
Here in the court, of all he dies possess'd, 380

Unto his son Lorenzo, and his daughter. 381

*Duke.* He shall do this ; or else I do recant  
The pardon, that I late pronouncèd here.

*Por.* Art thou contented, Jew? what dost thou say?

*Shy.* I am content.



'I pray you, give me leave to go from hence.'

*Por.* Clerk, draw a deed of gift. 385

*Shy.* I pray you, give me leave to go from hence ;  
I am not well : send the deed after me,  
And I will sign it.

*Duke.* Get thee gone, but do it.

*Grat.* In christening, thou shalt have two god-  
fathers ;

Had I been judge, thou shouldst have had ten more, 390  
To bring thee to the gallows, not the font. [*Exit SHY.*

*Duke.* Sir, I entreat you home with me to dinner.

*Por.* I humbly do desire your grace of pardon ;  
I must away this night toward Padua,  
And it is meet I presently set forth. 395

*Duke.* I am sorry that your leisure serves you not.  
Antonio, gratify this gentleman ;  
For in my mind, you are much bound to him.  
[*Exeunt DUKE, MAGNIFICOES, and Train.*

*Bass.* Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend  
Have, by your wisdom, been this day acquitted 400  
Of grievous penalties ; in lieu whereof,  
Three thousand ducats, due unto the Jew,  
We freely cope your courteous pains withal.

*Ant.* And stand indebted, over and above,  
In love and service to you evermore. 405

*Por.* He is well paid that is well satisfied ;  
And I, delivering you, am satisfied,  
And therein do account myself well paid :  
My mind was never yet more mercenary.  
I pray you, know me when we meet again ; 410  
I wish you well, and so I take my leave.

*Bass.* Dear sir, of force I must attempt you further ;  
Take some remembrance of us, as a tribute,  
Not as a fee ; grant me two things, I pray you,—  
Not to deny me, and to pardon me. 415

*Por.* You press me far, and therefore I will yield.  
Give me your gloves, I'll wear them for your sake ;  
And, for your love, I'll take this ring from you :—  
Do not draw back your hand ; I'll take no more ;  
And you in love shall not deny me this. 420



*Bass.* This ring, good sir? alas, it is a trifle; 421  
I will not shame myself to give you this.

*Por.* I will have nothing else but only this;  
And now, methinks, I have a mind to it.

*Bass.* There's more depends on this, than on the  
value. 425

The dearest ring in Venice will I give you,  
And find it out by proclamation:  
Only for this, I pray you, pardon me.

*Por.* I see, sir, you are liberal in offers:  
You taught me first to beg; and now, methinks, 430  
You teach me how a beggar should be answer'd.

*Bass.* Good sir, this ring was given me by my wife:  
And, when she put it on, she made me vow  
That I should neither sell, nor give, nor lose it.

*Por.* That 'scuse serves many men to save their  
gifts. 435

An if your wife be not a mad-woman,  
And know how well I have deserv'd this ring,  
She would not hold out enemy for ever,  
For giving it to me. Well, peace be with you!

[*Exeunt* PORTIA and NERISSA.]

*Ant.* My lord Bassanio, let him have the ring:  
Let his deservings, and my love withal, 441  
Be valued 'gainst your wife's commandment.

*Bass.* Go, Gratiano, run and overtake him;  
Give him the ring, and bring him, if thou canst,  
Unto Antonio's house:—away, make haste. 445

[*Exit* GRATIANO.]

Come, you and I will thither presently;  
And in the morning early will we both  
Fly toward Belmont. Come, Antonio. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II. *Venice. A street.**Enter* PORTIA *and* NERISSA.

*Por.* Inquire the Jew's house out, give him this deed,

And let him sign it: we'll away to-night,  
And be a day before our husbands home:  
This deed will be well welcome to Lorenzo.

*Enter* GRATIANO.

*Grat.* Fair sir, you are well overta'en : 5  
My lord Bassanio, upon more advice,  
Hath sent you here this ring; and doth entreat  
Your company at dinner.

*Por.* That cannot be :  
This ring I do accept most thankfully ;  
And so, I pray you tell him. Furthermore, 10  
I pray you, show my youth old Shylock's house.

*Grat.* That will I do.

*Ner.* Sir, I would speak with you :—  
I'll see if I can get my husband's ring, [*To* PORTIA.  
Which I did make him swear to keep for ever.

*Por.* Thou may'st, I warrant. We shall have old  
swearing, 15  
That they did give the rings away to men ;  
But we'll outface them, and outswear them too.  
Away ! make haste : thou know'st where I will tarry.

*Ner.* Come, good sir, will you show me to this  
house ? [*Exeunt.*



'The moon shines bright.—In such a night as this.'

## ACT V.

SCENE I. *Belmont. Avenue to Portia's house.*

*Enter LORENZO and JESSICA.*

*Lor.* The moon shines bright.—In such a night  
as this,

When the sweet wind did gently kiss the trees,  
And they did make no noise,—in such a night,  
Troilus, methinks, mounted the Trojan walls,  
And sigh'd his soul toward the Grecian tents,

5

Where Cressid lay that night.

*Jess.* In such a night,  
Did Thisbe fearfully o'ertrip the dew ;  
And saw the lion's shadow ere himself,  
And ran dismay'd away.

*Lor.* In such a night,  
Stood Dido, with a willow in her hand, 10  
Upon the wild sea-banks, and wav'd her love  
To come again to Carthage.

*Jess.* In such a night,  
Medea gather'd the enchanted herbs  
That did renew old Æson.

*Lor.* In such a night,  
Did Jessica steal from the wealthy Jew, 15  
And with an unthrift love did run from Venice,  
As far as Belmont.

*Jess.* And in such a night,  
Did young Lorenzo swear he lov'd her well,  
Stealing her soul with many vows of faith,  
And ne'er a true one.

*Lor.* And in such a night, 20  
Did pretty Jessica, like a little shrew,  
Slander her love, and he forgave it her.

*Jess.* I would out-night you, did no body come :  
But, hark, I hear the footing of a man.

*Enter STEPHANO.*

*Lor.* Who comes so fast in silence of the night ?

*Steph.* A friend. 26

*Lor.* A friend ? what friend ? your name, I pray  
you, friend ?

*Steph.* Stepháno is my name ; and I bring word,  
My mistress will before the break of day

Be here at Belmont : she doth stray about 30  
By holy crosses, where she kneels and prays  
For happy wedlock hours.

*Lor.* Who comes with her ?

*Steph.* None, but a holy hermit, and her maid.  
I pray you, is my master yet return'd ?

*Lor.* He is not, nor we have not heard from him.—  
But go we in, I pray thee, Jessica, 36  
And ceremoniously let us prepare  
Some welcome for the mistress of the house.

*Enter LAUNCELOT.*

*Laun.* Sola, sola ! wo ha, ho ! sola, sola !

*Lor.* Who calls ? 40

*Laun.* Sola !—did you see master Lorenzo, and  
mistress Lorenzo ?—sola, sola !

*Lor.* Leave hollaing, man ; here.

*Laun.* Sola !—where ? where ?

*Lor.* Here. 45

*Laun.* Tell him there's a post come from my  
master, with his horn full of good news ; my master  
will be here ere morning. [*Exit.*

*Lor.* Sweet soul, let's in, and there expect their  
coming.

And yet no matter ;—why should we go in ? 50  
My friend Stepháno, signify, I pray you,  
Within the house, your mistress is at hand ;  
And bring your music forth into the air.—

[*Exit* STEPHANO.]

How sweet the moon-light sleeps upon this bank !  
Here will we sit, and let the sounds of music 55  
Creep in our ears ; soft stillness, and the night,

Become the touches of sweet harmony.  
Sit, Jessica. Look, how the floor of heaven  
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold ;  
There's not the smallest orb, which thou behold'st, 60  
But in his motion like an angel sings,  
Still quiring to the young-ey'd cherubins :  
Such harmony is in immortal souls ;  
But, whilst this muddy vesture of decay  
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.— 65

*Enter* MUSICIANS.

Come, ho ! and wake Diana with a hymn ;  
With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear,  
And draw her home with music. [*Music.*]

*Jess.* I am never merry when I hear sweet music.

*Lor.* The reason is, your spirits are attentive : 70  
For do but note a wild and wanton herd,  
Or race of youthful and unhandled colts,  
Fetching mad bounds, bellowing, and neighing loud,  
Which is the hot condition of their blood ;  
If they but hear perchance a trumpet sound, 75  
Or any air of music touch their ears,  
You shall perceive them make a mutual stand,  
Their savage eyes turn'd to a modest gaze,  
By the sweet power of music. Therefore, the poet  
Did feign that Orpheus drew trees, stones, and floods ;  
Since naught so stockish, hard, and full of rage, 81  
But music for the time doth change his nature.  
The man that hath no music in himself,  
Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,  
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils : 85  
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,

And his affections dark as Erebus :  
Let no such man be trusted.—Mark the music.

*Enter PORTIA and NERISSA, at a distance.*

*Por.* That light we see is burning in my hall.  
How far that little candle throws his beams ! 90  
So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

*Ner.* When the moon shone, we did not see the  
candle.

*Por.* So doth the greater glory dim the less :  
A substitute shines brightly as a king,  
Until a king be by ; and then his state 95  
Empties itself, as doth an inland brook  
Into the main of waters. Music ! hark !

*Ner.* It is your music, madam, of the house.

*Por.* Nothing is good, I see, without respect ;  
Methinks it sounds much sweeter than by day. 100

*Ner.* Silence bestows that virtue on it, madam.

*Por.* The crow doth sing as sweetly as the lark,  
When neither is attended ; and, I think,  
The nightingale, if she should sing by day,  
When every goose is cackling, would be thought 105  
No better a musician than the wren.

How many things by season season'd are  
To their right praise, and true perfection !—

Peace, ho ! the moon sleeps with Endymion,  
And would not be awak'd ! *[Music ceases.*

*Lor.* That is the voice, 110  
Or I am much deceiv'd, of Portia.

*Por.* He knows me, as the blind man knows the  
cuckoo,  
By the bad voice.

*Lor.* Dear lady, welcome home.

*Por.* We have been praying for our husbands' welfare,

Which speed, we hope, the better for our words. 115  
Are they return'd ?

*Lor.* Madam, they are not yet ;  
But there is come a messenger before,  
To signify their coming.

*Por.* Go in, Nerissa :  
Give order to my servants, that they take  
No note at all of our being absent hence ;— 120  
Nor you Lorenzo ;—Jessica, nor you. [*A tucket sounds.*

*Lor.* Your husband is at hand ; I hear his trumpet :  
We are no tell-tales, madam ; fear you not.

*Por.* This night, methinks, is but the daylight sick ;  
It looks a little paler : 'tis a day, 125  
Such as a day is when the sun is hid.

*Enter BASSANIO, ANTONIO, GRATIANO, and their followers.*

*Bass.* We should hold day with the Antipodes,  
If you would walk in absence of the sun.

*Por.* Let me give light, but let me not be light ;  
For a light wife doth make a heavy husband, 130  
And never be Bassanio so for me ;  
But God sort all !—You are welcome home, my lord.

*Bass.* I thank you, madam : give welcome to my friend.—

This is the man, this is Antonio,  
To whom I am so infinitely bound. 135

*Por.* You should in all sense be much bound to him,  
For, as I hear, he was much bound for you.



*Ant.* No more than I am well acquitted of.

*Por.* Sir, you are very welcome to our house :

It must appear in other ways than words, 140  
Therefore, I scant this breathing courtesy.

[GRATIANO and NERISSA seem to talk apart.]

*Grat.* By yonder moon, I swear, you do me wrong ;  
In faith, I gave it to the judge's clerk.

*Por.* A quarrel, ho, already ! what's the matter ?

*Grat.* About a hoop of gold, a paltry ring 145  
That she did give me ; whose posy was,  
For all the world, like cutler's poetry  
Upon a knife, *Love me, and leave me not.*

*Ner.* What talk you of the posy, or the value ?

You swore to me, when I did give it you, 150  
That you would wear it till your hour of death ;  
And that it should lie with you in your grave :  
Though not for me, yet for your vehement oaths,  
You should have been respective, and have kept it.  
Gave it a judge's clerk !—no, God's my judge, 155  
The clerk will ne'er wear hair on's face, that had it.

*Grat.* He will, an if he live to be a man.

*Ner.* Ay, if a woman live to be a man.

*Grat.* Now, by this hand, I gave it to a youth,—  
A kind of boy ; a little scrubbèd boy, 160  
No higher than thyself, the judge's clerk ;  
A prating boy, that begg'd it as a fee ;  
I could not for my heart deny it him.

*Por.* You were to blame, I must be plain with you,  
To part so slightly with your wife's first gift ; 165  
A thing stuck on with oaths upon your finger,  
And so riveted with faith unto your flesh.  
I gave my love a ring, and made him swear

Never to part with it ; and here he stands :  
I dare be sworn for him, he would not leave it, 170  
Nor pluck it from his finger, for the wealth  
That the world masters. Now, in faith, Gratiano,  
You give your wife too unkind a cause of grief ;  
An 'twere to me, I should be mad at it.

*Bass.* Why, I were best to cut my left hand off, 175  
And swear I lost the ring defending it. [*Aside.*]

*Grat.* My lord Bassanio gave his ring away  
Unto the judge that begg'd it, and, indeed,  
Deserv'd it too ; and then the boy, his clerk,  
That took some pains in writing, he begg'd mine : 180  
And neither man, nor master, would take aught  
But the two rings.

*Por.* What ring gave you, my lord ?  
Not that, I hope, which you receiv'd of me.

*Bass.* If I could add a lie unto a fault,  
I would deny it ; but you see my finger 185  
Hath not the ring upon it : it is gone.

*Por.* Even so void is your false heart of truth.

*Bass.* Sweet Portia,  
If you did know to whom I gave the ring,  
If you did know for whom I gave the ring, 190  
And would conceive for what I gave the ring,  
And how unwillingly I left the ring,  
When naught would be accepted but the ring,  
You would abate the strength of your displeasure.

*Por.* If you had known the virtue of the ring, 195  
Or half her worthiness that gave the ring,  
Or your own honour to contain the ring,  
You would not then have parted with the ring.  
What man is there so much unreasonable,

If you had pleas'd to have defended it                    200  
 With any terms of zeal, wanted the modesty.  
 To urge the thing held as a ceremony?  
 Nerissa teaches me what to believe:  
 I'll die for't, but some woman had the ring.                    204



‘What ring gave you, my lord?’

*Bass.* No, by mine honour, madam, by my soul,  
 No woman had it, but a civil doctor,  
 Which did refuse three thousand ducats of me,  
 And begg'd the ring; the which I did deny him,  
 And suffer'd him to go displeas'd away,---                    209

Even he that had held up the very life 210  
Of my dear friend. What should I say, sweet lady?  
I was enforc'd to send it after him ;  
I was beset with shame and courtesy ;  
My honour would not let ingratitude  
So much besmear it. Pardon me, good lady ; 215  
For, by these blessed candles of the night,  
Had you been there, I think, you would have begg'd  
The ring of me to give the worthy doctor.

*Por.* Let not that doctor e'er come near my house :  
Since he hath got the jewel that I lov'd, 220  
And that which you did swear to keep for me,  
I will become as liberal as you :  
I'll not deny him any thing I have.

*Ant.* I am the unhappy subject of these quarrels.

*Por.* Sir, grieve not you ; you are welcome notwithstanding. 225

*Bass.* Portia, forgive me this enforcèd wrong ;  
And, in the hearing of these many friends,  
I swear to thee, even by thine own fair eyes,  
Wherein I see myself,——

*Por.* Mark you but that !  
In both my eyes he doubly sees himself : 230  
In each eye, one :—swear by your double self,  
And there's an oath of credit.

*Bass.* Nay, but hear me :  
Pardon this fault, and by my soul I swear,  
I never more will break an oath with thee.

*Ant.* I once did lend my body for his wealth : 235  
Which, but for him that had your husband's ring,  
Had quite miscarried : I dare be bound again,  
My soul upon the forfeit, that your lord  
Will never more break faith advisedly. 239

*Por.* Then you shall be his surety. Give him this,  
And bid him keep it better than the other. 241

*Ant.* Here, lord Bassanio ; swear to keep this ring.

*Bass.* By heaven, it is the same I gave the doctor !

*Por.* I had it of him.—You are all amaz'd :  
Here is a letter, read it at your leisure ; 245  
It comes from Padua, from Bellario :  
There you shall find, that Portia was the doctor ;  
Nerissa there, her clerk : Lorenzo here  
Shall witness, I set forth as soon as you,  
And but even now return'd ; I have not yet 250  
Enter'd my house.—Antonio, you are welcome ;  
And I have better news in store for you,  
Than you expect : unseal this letter soon ;  
There you shall find, three of your argosies  
Are richly come to harbour suddenly : 255  
You shall not know by what strange accident  
I chancèd on this letter.

*Ant.* I am dumb.

*Bass.* Were you the doctor, and I knew you not ?

*Ant.* Sweet lady, you have given me life, and living ;  
For here I read for certain that my ships 260  
Are safely come to road.

*Por.* How now, Lorenzo ?  
My clerk hath some good comfort too for you.

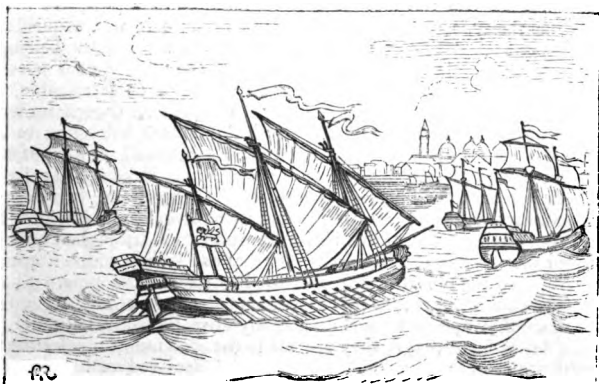
*Ner.* Ay, and I'll give them him without a fee.—  
There do I give to you and Jessica,  
From the rich Jew, a special deed of gift, 265  
After his death, of all he dies possess'd of.

*Lor.* Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way  
Of starvèd people.

*Por.* It is almost morning,  
And yet, I am sure, you are not satisfied 269

Of these events at full. Let us go in ; 270  
And charge us there upon inter'gatories,  
And we will answer all things faithfully.

*Grat.* Well, while I live, I'll fear no other thing  
So sore, as keeping safe Nerissa's ring. [*Exeunt.*



## EXTRACTS FROM COMMENTATORS.

Shylock, 'A living subject for terror and pity.'—*Swinburne*.

'A man more sinned against than sinning.'—*Hazlitt*.

'We can as little deny him our sympathy as we can repress our disgust at his sentiments and mode of action.'—*Ulrici*.

'Shylock's tribal hatred of Antonio and the Christians was surely wholly justified, and so was his individual hatred to a great extent. It is only the hate that springs from avarice in Shylock that we can condemn. . . . His appeal to justice—"Hath not a Jew eyes," &c.—is unanswerable, and is not yet admitted in many a land calling itself civilised. For how short a time, alas, have we admitted it.'—*Furnivall*.

'The indignities and persecution with which he [Shylock] is assailed in every direction, and which are artistically impressed most deeply on the reader previously to the termination of the trial, present so vividly the extreme oppression he encounters on account of his creed, that our sympathies would have turned towards him had the nature of his retaliation been less terrible. He is represented as a Jew, not in any degree as the type of an entire race, but because it was requisite, in carrying out the design of the play, to introduce a character belonging to a people towards whom the attribution of the most violent persecution would have been accepted by an audience as intelligible, and within the limits of high probability. Otherwise, the character of Shylock might have been assigned to an individual belonging to any creed, for most nations occasionally afford the spectacle of men of high intellectual vigour, uncontrolled by the restraining influence of religion, accepting in their own persons the office of avenger, and carrying out their vindictiveness in forms of their own invention. Shylock had been trampled upon, until his desire for retaliation triumphed over his love for money, and resolved itself into that one feeling which it appears to have been the object of the poet to illustrate in the play. Shakespeare has almost imperceptibly so arranged the course of his arguments, that while they appear to and do actually arise perfectly, naturally, out of his desire for revenge, they are made the medium of inculcating the liberal doctrine, that a man cannot justly be deprived of his rights on account of his religious belief.'—*J. O. Halliwell*.

'No person depicted in any preceding comedy can compare in vigour of drawing and depth of colour with Shylock; and Portia is the first of Shakespeare's women who unites in beautiful proportion intellectual power, high and refined, with unrestrained ardour of the heart. . . . The feminine force of Portia is as bright as the sunlight and as beneficent.'—*Dowden*.

'Bassanio is ennobled in our eyes by his choice; for the gold, silver, and lead of the caskets, with their several inscriptions, are a test of true lovers. Bassanio does not come as a needy adventurer to choose the golden casket, or to "gain" or "get" anything, but in the true spirit of self-abandoning love "to give and hazard all he hath;" and having dared to give all, he gains all.'—*Dowden*.

'We should like Jessica better if she had not deceived and robbed her father; and Lorenzo if he had not married a Jewess, though he thinks he has a right to wrong a Jew.'—*Hazlitt*.

# NOTES.

N. B.— *In pronouncing the Italian names give a the same sound as in far and father; and i the same sound as in marine.*

## ACT I.

### SCENE I.

**Dram'atis Perso'næ**] Persons represented in the play.

**Antonio's sadness** without known cause is a *presentiment* of coming trouble. [Some authors seek to startle us with surprises; Shakespeare awes us with presentiments. He rarely, if ever, startles us.]

1 **sooth**] truth. (A.-S. *sóth*, adj., true; noun, the truth.)

5 **I am to learn**] I have yet to be informed of, to be told. Abbott gives this as an example of the ellipses of 'under necessity;' but Ant. is not expressing *obligation* to learn, but only his present ignorance of the cause of sadness, and his desire to learn.

6 **want-wit**] a witless person; an idiot.

7 **ado**] to do; trouble.  
**to know**] adv. to *have much ado*.

9 **argosies**] large merchant-vessels. (From Span. *argos*, the noted Greek ship 'Argo.' See note, line 167.)

10 **signiors**] lords. (L. *senior*, older.) **burgher**] a freeman of a *borough*. [Antonio's ships as much excelled common ships, assigniors exceed common citizens.]

11 **pageants**] exhibitions; spectacles. Orig. the movable scaffold on which the old 'mysteries' were acted. (L. *pagina*, a scaffold or stage.) *Tempest* IV. 155.

15 **venture**] that which is sent to sea in trade; *forth*, modifies *had*.

16 **better part**] greater part.

17 **still**] always; constantly.

18 **where sits the wind**] the direction in which it blows as indicated by the direction the grass is blown.

19 **roads**] roadsteads; places where ships may *ride* at anchor.

21 **out of doubt**] undoubtedly.

23 **a'gue**] acute attack; fever-fit.

26 **flats**] shallows; sand-banks.

27 **Andrew**] ship. Knight suggests that the name was applied to ships as a compliment to *Andrew Doria*, a Genoese admiral.

**dock'd**] inclosed as in a dock.



- 28 **Vailing]** lowering. *I Hen.* 6 V. iii. 25. (Fr. *avalier*, to let fall down.)
- 29 **kiss her burial]** to meet the sand in which she is being buried.
- 35 **now worth this]** one moment (before the wreck) of great value, and the next (after the wreck) worth nothing. *Rich.* 3 I. iii. 82.
- 42 **bottom]** ship. *John* II. i. 73.
- 44 **upon the fortune]** dependent on the success.
- 50 **two-headed Janus]** a Roman god with two faces—one young and smiling, the other old and wrinkled. 53-4.
- 52 **peep]** the eyes being half closed in laughing.
- 53 **like parrots]** without reason.
- 54 **other]** *pl.* = others.  
**vinegar aspect]** sour looks; the look caused by tasting vinegar.
- 56 **Nestor]** the oldest and wisest hero before Troy.
- 61 **prevented me]** hindered me by interrupting our interview. [Schmidt and others explain this 'to anticipate, to be beforehand with; but this can scarcely be right, since the speaker was really beforehand with the 'worthier friends' who 'prevented' him.]
- 62 **Your** is emphatic. *Worth* is suggested by *worthier*, line 61.
- 67 **strange]** reserved; estranged; unfamiliar. **Must it be?** Must you really go?
- 68 **make our leisures]** we will see Antonio again when you have done with him.
- 70 **two]** so all the editions. The form of the sentence seems to imply a connection with what goes immediately before, which would be better brought out by *too*.
- 74 **respect upon]** 'you look too much upon the world'—the literal meaning of 'respect.' The *upon* is connected with 'respect,' and is not used like 'for' in 'I have no respect for him.'—*Abbott*.
- 75 **lose it]** they lose all enjoyment of wealth who are over-anxious in acquiring it.
- 79 **and mine]** = and my part is. **play the fool]** I have no taste for sad parts: let *me* play the merry part of the fool.
- 80 **With mirth]** let me wrinkle my face with laughing, not with care.
- 82 **'groans** drained the blood from the heart,' it was once thought.
- 84 **Sit** like the monumental image of his grandsire.
- 86 **By being peevish]** Dr. Copland classes peevishness amongst 'the most common causes of jaundice.' *Troil.* I. iii. 2.
- 89 **cream, &c.]** put on a repulsive aspect. 'The green mantle of the standing pool,' *Lear* III. iv. 139.
- 90 **wilful stillness, &c.]** maintain obstinate silence.
- 91 **with purpose, &c.]** to gain a reputation for wisdom.
- 92 **conceit]** = conception; thought.
- 93 **As who should say]** which is as much as to say. ii. 41.  
**I am Sir Oracle]** I have infallible wisdom.
- 94 **let no dog bark]** let no one mock or oppose me.
- 98 **If they should speak]** = their speaking; which is subject of *would*. Their brother men, hearing them, would call them fools, and so incur the damnation mentioned in *Matt.* v. 22.
- 102 **gudgeon]** a small unmarketable fish, easily caught.

- 110 **for this gear]** for what you have said against silent people. **gear]** stuff; matter. (A.-S. *gearwe*, preparation; dress.) **exeunt]** they go out.
- 116 **is the same]** *is that*, or *is it*.
- 120 **disabled]** crippled; impaired.
- 121 **something]** = somewhat; in some measure.
- swelling port]** pompous bearing; grand style of living.
- 122 **continuance]** continuance *of*.
- 123 **make moan]** complain that I am now obliged to reduce my expenditure.
- 124 **chief care, &c.]** my chief anxiety is to be honourably quit of my debts.
- 126 **prodigal]** extravagant; wasteful.
- 127 **gaged]** = bound; pledged.
- 129 **warranty]** permission; authorisation.
- 133 **still]** always; constantly. **If it stand, &c.]** if it is an honourable plan.
- 136 **oc-ca'si-ons]** needs; necessities.
- 138 **his fellow]** an arrow precisely similar; of like length, weight, and feathering; and therefore likely to fly the same distance.
- 139 **advised]** careful; heedful.
- 140 **find . . . forth]** find . . . out. *Com. Err. I. ii. 38.*
- 141 **childhood proof]** experiment of childhood.
- 142 **what follows, &c.]** the plan I am about to propose is guileless as childhood.
- 143 **wilful]** reckless; obstinately wasteful. (The sentence is elliptical = 'and (I) *being* like,' &c.)
- 145 **self way]** = same or self-same way. *Lear I. i. 71.*
- 147 **I will watch]** I will be so careful in using the money.
- 147-8 **or . . . or]** either . . . or. *Cæs. II. i. 135.*
- 151 **circumstance]** ceremony; roundabout talk.
- 153 **In doubting my readiness to help you to the extent of my power.**
- 157 **prest]** ready; prompt. *Pericles IV. Prologue 45.*
- 159 **fairer than that word fair can express.**
- 160 **sometimes]** = formerly. This probably refers to a former visit to Belmont. *ii. 106.*
- 162 **undervalued]** inferior in value. *II. vii. 53.*
- 163 **Brutus' Portia]** Portia, wife of Brutus the conspirator. *Cæs. II. i. 234.*
- 167 **golden fleece]** an allusion to a famous old Greek story, which represents Jason as undertaking a long voyage, and passing through many dangers to get possession of a golden fleece which was suspended on an oak tree and guarded by a dragon in the land of Colchos or Colchis, east of the Black Sea. His ship was called *Argo*, and himself and companions *Argonauts*.
- 168 **strand]** shore.
- 171 **To compete with them on equal terms as to equipage, &c.**
- 172 **mind (which) presages, &c.]** which augurs me such thriving or success.
- 175 **commodity]** merchandise.
- 178 **rack'd]** stretched; strained; exhausted. Compare *rack-rent*, the utmost payment that can be squeezed out of a tenant.
- 180 **presently]** at once; immediately.
- 181-2 **I have no doubt I shall be able to get the money either on my commercial credit, or out of personal friendship.**

## SCENE II.

- 1 **troth]** another form of *truth*.  
 7 **seated in the mean]** placed in the middle rank of life.  
 8 **sooner comes by]** luxurious living induces premature old age; it is injurious to health. (Or, by 'white hairs' may we understand the reverence and honour commonly associated with white hairs? The first, which is the ordinary interpretation, makes the next clause repeat precisely the same thought conversely.)  
 10 **good sentences]** maxims. (As much as to say 'Quite true as a theory, but it does not help me practically.')  
 12 **what were good to do]** noun clause obj. to *know*; *to do*, adv. infin. to *good*.  
 17 **this reasoning, &c.]** this talk is 'not according to the prescribed mode of choosing a husband for me.'  
 20-1 **will]** play on two senses of word.  
 23 **nor . . . none]** double negatives common in *Sh.*; used to strengthen each other. In modern Eng. they destroy each other.  
 27 **chooses his meaning]** chooses the casket by which you are to be won.  
 29 **who you]** *who* nom., *you* obj. to *love*.  
 34 **level]** aim; judge; guess. *Pericles* I. i. 165.  
 36 **colt]** a gay wild youth. The people of Naples were skilled horsemen.  
 37 **appropriation]** addition; acquisition.  
 40 **county palatine]** count possessing royal privileges. In *Romeo* we have the 'County Paris.'  
 42 **an]** if (Scand.) followed by *if* redundant.  
 43 **prove the weeping philosopher]** turn out to be a weeping philosopher. Heráclitus was so called because he wept over the follies of mankind.  
 46 **death's head, &c.]** a skeleton head, such as used to be engraved on tombs, &c.  
 48 **How say you by]** what say you concerning.  
**Monsieur]** = Mr., French address used to gentlemen. *Le Bon* = the Good.  
 53 **better bad habit]** he has the bad habit in a higher degree.  
 54 **he is every man]** his humours and dispositions are so variable that he seems to have no settled character of his own.  
 60 **say . . . to]** say about, or with reference to. Portia puns on the expression in her reply.  
 63-5 He does not understand the languages I speak, and you can bear witness I know but little English, the language he speaks.  
 66 **proper]** = handsome. *Hebrews* xi. 23.  
 67 **with a dumb show]** without words; by gestures only.  
 68 **suited]** dressed. *Lear* IV. vii. 6.  
**doublet]** vest or waistcoat.  
 69 **round hose]** round swelling breeches; trunk hose.  
**bonnet]** head covering for man or woman. *Rich.* 2 I. iv. 31.  
 71 **his neighbour]** that is, by birth.  
 74 **borrowed a box]** euphemism for *received a box*.  
 76 **Frenchman . . . sealed under]** became surety for giving the Englishman another box, by putting his seal and name under the Scotchman's. An allusion to the promises which

France had often made to Scotland of help against England.

**vilely**] badly; ill.

87 **you should refuse to perform**] = you *would* be disobeying. We should now say *would refuse*.

90 **Rhenish**] pertaining to the Rhine. Wine has more attractions for him than a wife would have.

96 **which is**] the antecedent of *which* is plural, but *is* agrees with its complement *to return*.

99 **imposition**] appointment; order.

100 **Sibyl'la**] a sibyl or prophetess; used inaccurately as a proper noun. The Cumæan sibyl was granted an exceptionally long life.

101 **Diana**] the virgin goddess of the moon and of hunting.

108 **Montferrat**] a marquise in Italy.

116 **four strangers**] There are six mentioned.

122 **condition**] disposition; character.

124 I would rather have him for a confessor than a husband.

126 **whiles**] genitive of *while*.

### SCENE III.

1 **ducat**] a coin worth 3s. 4d. or 4s.; so called, either because coined by a duke, or from the word 'ducatus' in the inscription upon it.

**well**] = what more do you propose?

7 **stead me?**] assist me; help me.

**pleasure me?**] gratify me; oblige me.

12 **a good man**] a man of means; rich; of good credit.

17 **sufficient**] a sufficient securi-

ty; capable of paying; solvent. **supposition**] uncertain, being all at sea.

18 **Tripolis**] Tripoli, in Syria.

19 **Rialto**] the Exchange.

21 **squandered**] scattered; bound to various ports.

28 **will be assured**] *will* very emphatic.

32 **eat of the habitation**] eat pork. *Matt.* viii. 32.

35 **so following**] so-forth; such like.

38 **fawning publican**] The publicans (tax-gatherers) were intensely hated by the Jews; they were probably not given to cringing, but Shylock is more anxious to express his hatred strongly than to use strictly accurate epithets.

39 **for**] because. *Othello* III. iii. 263.

41 **grat'is**] for mere thanks; for nothing.

42 **usance**] interest.

43 **catch . . . upon the hip**] a wrestler's phrase, meaning to have at an advantage; to have full power over.

44 **feed fat**] gratify to the utmost.

46 **even there**] on the Rialto.

47 **thrift**] act of thriving; frugality.

48 **interest**] the taking of interest was formerly regarded as a great moral wrong, and the word had consequently a sinister or bad sense, which it has lost since we have ceased to regard the thing as wrong.

**tribe**] = race; nation.

50 **debating of**] considering; reckoning.

52 **gross**] full amount.

56 **Rest you fair**] Shylock salutes Antonio as if he had only now seen him.

60 **ripe wants**] urgent wants.

- 61 **possessed**] fully informed. IV. i. 35.
- 66 **Methought**] I understood. See IV. i. 430.
- 67 **use it**] make a practice of it.
- 75 **sufferance**] endurance of injuries is the mark or characteristic of our race. [See Introduction, p. 7. It may be added that by the Venetian law Shylock was required to wear a red hat and a yellow turban.]
- 76 **misbeliever**] one who believes wrongly.
- cut-throat dog**] blood-thirsty dog. The remark on line 38 applies here.
- 77 **gab'erdine**] (*-deen*) a long smock-frock of coarse material.
- 78 **all for use of**] because I use, or take usance for.
- 80 **go to**] come to the point; consider.
- 81 **you say so**] the *you* is emphatic.
- 82 **void rheum**] discharge spittle. *Hen.* 5 III. v. 52.
- 83 **foot me**] kick me.
- 88 **bondman's key**] tone or manner of a slave.
- 89 **bated breath**] low (opposite of loud) speech.
- 93 **courtesies**] civilities (ironical).
- 95 **like**] = likely (*adj.* for *adv.*)
- 98-9 **take a breed, &c.**] accept interest for use of metal which naturally does not breed as plants and animals do. 'They say . . . that it is against nature for money to beget money.' *Bacon* (Essay 41).
- 101 **Who**] = *of whom*; or = *that* or *so that*.
- 105 **doit**] the smallest coin; a half-farthing. (Dutch, *duit*, a doit.)
- 107 **This is kind, &c.**] I offer this in kindness; or, This (offer) is kind.
- 109 **notary**] one authorised to draw up and attest deeds and contracts.
- 110 **single bond**] mere bond, *i.e.* a bond with no penalty attached. *Schmidt. III. Hen.* 6 V. i. 43. A bond without sureties. *Clarke and Wright.* **in merry sport**] modifies *nominated*.
- 114 **nominated**] specified.
- equal**] exact. IV. i. 316-322.
- 117 **in faith**] in sooth; indeed.
- 120 **dwel in my necessity**] continue in my needy state.
- 121 **I will not**] = I shall not.
- 126 **dealings teaches them suspect**] = dealings teach them to suspect. [In the northern dialect of early English *-es* formed the plural. *Abbott*, 332.]
- 132 **muttons**] = sheep. (Fr. *mouton*, a sheep.)
- beefs**] = *beeves*; oxen. (Fr. *bœuf*, an ox.)
- 133 **extend**] offer.
- 134 **so**] it is well; it's a bargain.
- adieu**] farewell. (Fr. *To God* = I commend you to God.)
- 135 **for my love, &c.**] as regards my love, do not wrong me by thinking it hypocritical.
- 140 **fearful guard**] doubtful guardianship.
- 141 **unthrifty knave**] good-for-nothing youth.
- 142 **hie**] haste. (A.-S. *higian*, to hasten.) In strictness *thee* should be *thou*, being nom. to *hie*.
- Exit**] he (or she) goes out.

## ACT II.

## SCENE I.

- 1 **Mislike**] dislike; disapprove. *II. Hen.* 6 I. i. 140.
- com-plex-i-on**] 4 syl.

- 2 **shadowed**] shady ; dark.  
**burnish'd**] bright.  
 4 **fairest**] lightest complexion-  
 ed.  
 5 **Phœbus**] the sun.  
 6 **incision**] blood-letting. *L.*  
*L. L. IV. iii. 97.*  
 7 **reddest**] red blood was sup-  
 posed to indicate courage ;  
*white-blooded* or *white-liverd*  
 meant cowardly.  
 9 **feared**] = put to fear ; af-  
 frighted.  
 10 **best regarded**] most esteem-  
 ed.  
 12 Unless I could not otherwise  
 win your love.  
 14 **nice**] foolishly particular ;  
 hard to please ; fastidious.  
 16 **bars me**] deprives me of.  
 17 **scanted me**] abridged my  
 liberty.  
 18 **hedged**] restricted ; limited.  
**wit**] knowledge ; understand-  
 ing. Its original meaning.  
 (*A.-S. witan*, to know.)  
 20 **then stood, &c.**] would then  
 have stood as fair a chance  
 of winning my love as any  
 other, &c.  
**as fair**] in allusion to his re-  
 marks on his complexion.  
 22 **Even**] 'adv. mod. advl.  
 phrase for *that*.'  
 25 **Sophy**] the King of Persia.  
 26 **three fields of**] three vic-  
 tories over.  
**Sultan Solymán**] perhaps  
 the Turkish Sultan, Solymán  
 the Magnificent, is intended.  
 He reigned from 1520 to 1566.  
 31 **alas the while**] the bravery  
 I have boasted is no help to  
 me meanwhile.  
 32 **Her'cu-lēs**] a hero of Greek  
 story famous for his great  
 strength and labours.  
**Li'chas**] (*-kas*) servant to  
 Hercules. In a pure game of  
 chance, Hercules' strength  
 would be no help to him.

- 33 **which is**] to settle which is.  
 35 **Alci'dēs**] another name of  
 Hercules.  
 36 **blind Fortune**] (nom. abs.)  
 mere chance.  
 42 **be advised**] weigh carefully ;  
 be cautious.  
 43 **Nor will not**] I will not ask  
 any lady, &c.  
 44 **to the temple**] = to the church  
 (for purpose of taking oath).  
 46 **blest**] strictly it should be  
 blessed'st. III. ii. 288. [How  
 could *good* fortune make him  
 'cursed' ? Hunter para-  
 phrases thus : 'Fortune, ac-  
 cording to her own good  
 pleasure, being then to make  
 me,' &c.]

## SCENE II.

- 1 **will serve**] = shall serve. He  
 has made up his mind to run  
 away in spite of his con-  
 science. [Halliwell supposes  
*not* omitted.]  
 8 **scorn . . . with heels**] lifting  
 the heel was a way of ex-  
 pressing scorn. *Much Ado*  
 III. iv. 50. There is a pun  
 here, 'scorn (with thy heels),  
 running with thy heels.'  
 9 **Via !**] (*It.*) away ! begone !  
 'An adv. of encouragement.'  
 20 **saving your reverence**] 'a  
 form of apology,' used here  
 mockingly, but in line 123  
 seriously.  
 21 **incarnation**] used for *in-*  
*carate (in the flesh)* ; in the  
 form of a man.  
 30 **sand-blind**] purblind ; having  
 imperfect sight. This Launce-  
 lot jestingly exaggerates into  
 'high-gravel blind.'  
 31 **try confusions with**] try to  
 puzzle or mystify. [Some  
 think he uses the word in-  
 correctly for '*conclusions*.'  
 37 **marry**] = by Mary.

- 47 **well to live]** compare *well to do*.
- 48 **what 'a will]** 'a a corruption of *he*, common in Old English.
- 51 **ergo]** (*Lat.*) consequently; therefore.
- 53 **an't]** if it.
- 55 **father]** the common title of respect applied to old men; hence old Gobbo does not understand it as expressing kinship.
- 57 **sisters three]** the Greek fates—Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos.
- 63 **hovel-post]** a prop to support the roof of a shed.
- 65 **alack]** *interj.* = alas!
- 73 **kneels** with his back to his father, so that he mistakes the back of his head for his face. 87. Launcelot's humour is very much addicted to this kind of trick in word as well as act.
- 80 **your boy, &c.]** another inversion, 'Your child that was, your boy that is, your son that shall be.'
- 89 **fill-horse]** (a corruption of *thill-horse*) a shaft-horse.
- 97 **set up my rest]** made up my mind. Formerly used in card-playing in sense of standing on the cards in hand (*Nares*); or, for the highest stake the players will venture (*Gifford*).
- 98 **a very Jew]** a true Jew; a Jew in disposition as well as name.
- 100 **tell]** count, number. (Note inversion.)
- 101 **give me]** give for me, or on my behalf.
- 105 **I am a Jew]** a form of asseveration. See *I. Hen. 4* II. iv. 198.
- 108 **supper . . . at five]** note this sign of early habits in *Shakespeare's* time.
- 110 **anon]** at once; forthwith.
- 114 **Gramercy]** corruption of Fr. *grand-merci*, many thanks.
- 118 **infection]** inclination; desire.
- 124 **cater-cousins]** those within the first four degrees of kindred; hence, close friends. (Fr. *quatre*, four.)
- 127 **frutify]** specify; notify.
- 130 **impertinent]** used for *pertinent*; pertaining to.
- 136 **defect]** used for *effect*; matter; consequence intended.
- 139 **preferr'd]** recommended. He puns on the word by using *preferment* in the sense of advancement.
- 142 **old proverb]** namely, 'He that hath the grace of God hath enough.'
- well parted]** appropriately divided.
- 148 **guarded]** trimmed; braided; faced.
- 166 **hear thee]** more properly *hear thou*, the pro. being nom. to the verb. I. iii. 142.
- 171 **too liberal]** licentious; free.
- 173 **skipping spirit]** boisterous manners; frolicsome disposition.
- 174 **miscon'strued]** misjudged; misunderstood.
- 176 **habit]** conduct; behaviour.
- 179 **is saying]** imp. part. used passively = being said.
- hood]** *v.* cover so as to bar sight, as a hawk was hooded till let fly at the game.
- 181 **civility]** good breeding; politeness.
- 182 **ostent]** display; show.
- 185 **bar]** except; exclude from the bargain.
- gauge me]** measure me; judge me.
- 188 **boldest . . . mirth]** most mirthful behaviour.

## SCENE III.

- 3 **rob of tediousness]** brighten ; relieve.  
 10 **exhibit]** used for *inhibit*, to hold in check ; or for *exhibit*.  
 11 **pagan]** properly, a heathen ; used here in sense of a non-Christian.  
 15 **heinous](hā-)** hateful ; odious.  
 19 **strife]** struggle between duty and inclination.

## SCENE IV.

- 2 **Disguise us]** that is, for the mask with which they propose to entertain Bassanio before he leaves.  
 5 **spoke us of]** bespoken ; engaged.  
 6 It will be a wretched affair if not carefully arranged.  
**quaintly]** neatly ; gracefully ; finely.  
 10 **break up]** break open.  
 12 **hand]** = handwriting.  
 15 **By your leave]** by your leave, I will go.  
 19 **take this]** i.e. some money.  
 23 **provided of]** provided with —referring to Jessica. *Sh.* sometimes uses *of* where we should use *with*, *on*, *by*, *for*, &c. II. ii. 91.  
 29 **needs]** (gen. of need) of necessity.  
 35 Misfortune will never dare to cross her foot (or path) unless she (misfortune) do it on the ground, &c.  
 37 **faithless]** unbelieving.

## SCENE V.

- 3, 4, 6 **what, why, when]** used as exclamations of impatience.  
 3 **gormandise]** eat greedily.  
 8 **wont]** used ; accustomed.  
 11 **bid forth]** invited out.

- 13 **flatter me]** pretend goodwill towards me. Compare I. iii. 31-36.  
**prodigal]** wasteful ; extravagant.  
 17 **a-brewing]** *on* or *in* brewing. Line 24.  
**towards my rest]** against my peace.  
 18 **to-night]** last night. 'To dream of money is ill.' *Old Dream Book*.  
 20 **reproach]** used by *Laun.* for *approach*.  
 21 **his]** = his reproach (in proper sense).  
 25 **Black - Monday]** Easter Monday ; so called in remembrance of a terrible storm on that day, which killed many of the soldiers of Edward III. as they were camped before Paris, 1360. The speech is an intentional piece of foolery.  
 30 **wry-necked fife]** 'A fife is a *wry-neckt musician*, for he always looks away from his instrument.' *RICHE'S Aphorismes*, 1618.  
 33 **varnish'd]** painted for the mask.  
 36 **Jacob's staff]** Gen. xxxii. 10 ; Hebrews xi. 21.  
 37 **of feasting forth]** for feasting out.  
 38 **sirrah]** sir (in contempt) ; fellow.  
 42 **Jewess' eye]** a play on the proverb 'worth a Jew's eye ;' worth what a Jew would pay to save his eye. Mutilation was often resorted to for purposes of extortion.  
 43 **Hagar's offspring]** an outcast and a menial. Gen. xxi. 10. [Allusion to his leaving.]  
 45 **patch]** a paltry fellow. ['*Patch* meant a fool or jester, from the parti-coloured or patch-like dress.]  
 46 **in profit]** in profitable work.



- 47 **drones hive not]** an allusion to the practice of bees, who drive useless drones from the hive.  
 49 **that]** rel. pro., obj. to *help*.  
 50 **borrowed purse]** the 3,000 ducats.  
 51 **perhaps I will]** = perhaps I shall.  
 53 **Fast bind]** a 'mistaken preference of material to moral securities, at the very moment when both were about to fail him.'  
 56 **you a daughter lost]** 'cruelty and distrust can at last erase the faintest tracks of natural duty and affection.'

## SCENE VI.

- 1 **pent-house]** a lean-to shed.  
 3 **out-dwells his hour]** stays away till the hour; is not here before the time fixed.  
 5 **Venus' pigeons]** Venus was the goddess of love, and is pictured in a chariot drawn by doves. *Tempest* IV. i. 94.  
 7 **obliged faith]** pledged faithfulness; faith bound by contract. A satirical remark contrasting the warmth of the lover and the coldness of the husband.  
 9 **sits down]** = sits down *with*.  
 10 **untread]** retrace.  
 12-3 The joy of anticipation exceeds the joy of possession.  
 14 **younger]** stripling; gay young man.  
 15 **scarfed]** decked with flags or streamers as a pleasure-boat.  
 14 **a prodigal; 17 the prodigal]** Luke xv. 11-32.  
 18 **over-weather'd]** weather-beaten.  
 21 **abode]** stay; tarrying.  
 27 **albeit]** (disyllable) although.  
 28 **thy love]** = thy lover. Jessica

- then plays on the word, using it for the object of her love.  
 30 **who love I]** = *whom* love I. Shakespeare often uses the nom. for the obj., especially when it precedes the verb.  
 31 **yours]** the object of your love.  
 34 So that you cannot see me well.  
 35 **exchange]** of woman's dress for boy's.  
 36 **cannot see them to be follies.**  
 38 **Cupid]** son of Venus, and god of love. His arrows were supposed to infect with love both gods and men, whose 'pretty follies' he laughed at. Jessica says he would have blushed at hers.  
 42 **too' too]** emphatic repetition. *Ham.* I. ii. 129. Note pun on *light*.  
 44 **obscured]** hidden; concealed from discovery of my father. 'A torch-bearer's office reveals the face, and mine ought to be hidden!' *Lorenzo* gives it the meaning *dimmed*.  
 47 **close night]** secret, dark night. Note play on *run-away*.  
 51 **by my hood]** perhaps he wore a hood for concealment. **Gentile]** quibbling with *gentle*, in sense of well-born, or generous.  
 52 **beshrew me]** curse me.  
 67 **on't]** = of it. *Cas.* I. ii. 71.

## SCENE VII.

- 1 **discover]** disclose.  
 4 **who]** we now use *which* as neut. rel.  
 8 **as blunt]** as plain, or outspoken as the lead is dull.  
 12 **withal]** likewise; as well.  
 14 **back again]** in reverse order.  
 20 **shows]** aspects; appearances.

- 25 **even hand]** just, or impartial hand.  
 26 **estimation]** value ; worth ; fame.  
 30 **disabling]** disparagement ; undervaluing.  
 36 **graved]** = engraved.  
 39 **they come]** *i.e.* as pilgrims to a shrine.  
 40 **mortal-breathing]** as distinguished from those of the church, who are not sainted until after death.  
 41 **Hyrcanian deserts]** a district south and south-east of the Caspian.  
**vasty]** vast (*Schmidt*) ; waste (*Hunter*).  
 42 **through-fares]** = thorough-fares. (A.S. *faran*, to go, travel.)  
 43 **come view]** = come to view. Ellipsis of *to* before *infin.* is common in *Shakespeare*.  
 44 Suitors are so eager that they cross the sea in spite of wind and storms.  
 49 **'Twere damnation]** 'twere a sin deserving damnation.  
 50 **cere cloth]** *waxed linen*, used as a shroud. (L. *cera*, wax.)  
 51 Lead would be too base a metal to rib (enclose) her shroud, *i.e.* to form her coffin. **obscure]** dark.  
 53 In the year 1600 gold was ten times as valuable as silver. In 1880 it was about seventeen times as valuable.  
 56 **an angel]** a gold coin worth 10s.  
 57 **insculp'd upon]** the angel is graven on the outside ; cut in relief.  
 63 **carrion death]** a skull or death's head.  
 67 **life hath sold]** hath sacrificed all the joy of life.  
**But]** = only.  
 71 As wise in judgment as you are young in limbs.

- 72 **inscrolled]** written on this scroll.  
 73 **cold]** wanting in power to move ; dull ; ineffectual.  
 77 **part]** = depart.

## SCENE VIII.

- 4 **raised]** = roused.  
 8 **gon'dola]** a Venetian pleasure-boat. See picture, p. 37.  
 12 **passion]** = passionate outcry.  
 25 **keep his day]** repay the loan as soon as due.  
 27 **reason'd]** conversed ; spoke.  
 30 **fraught]** freighted ; laden.  
 33 **You were best]** it were best you should.  
 39 **slubber]** do hurriedly and imperfectly ; to slur over.  
 40 Allow yourself sufficient time to carry your enterprise to a successful issue.  
 42 **mind of love]** let it not distract your mind from your love-making.  
 43-4 *We say 'employ in,' 'apply to.'*  
 45 **conveniently]** fitly ; properly.  
 48 **affection]** emotion.  
**sensible]** sensitive.  
 52 **quicken . . . heaviness]** enliven or relieve the sadness to which he clings.

## SCENE IX.

- 1, 6 **straight]** = straightway ; at once.  
 3 **election]** choice.  
 14 'If I am unfortunate in my choice.' The reading in preceding editions is : 'If I do fail *in* fortune *of* my choice.' I have ventured to transpose 'in' and 'of,' which makes the meaning plain.  
 17 **to hazard]** to risk ; to venture. Used absolutely.  
 18 **address'd me]** prepared myself ; set myself.

- 18 **Fortune now]** may my heart's desire be crowned with good luck.
- 25 **By]** to refer to ; in reference to. 'The fool multitude may be meant by that *many*.'
- 26 **fond]** foolish.
- 27 **martlet]** house-martin ; swallow.
- 28 **in the weather]** exposed to wind and storm.
- 29 **casualty]** accident ; mishap.
- 31 **jump]** agree. *I. Hen.* 4 I. ii. 78.
- 37 **To cozen]** to cheat ; to deceive. 'Who shall try to overreach fortune and get an honourable reputation without deserving it.'
- 40 **estates]** ranks ; dignities.
- 41 **deriv'd]** gained ; obtained.
- 42 **purchased]** won ; acquired.
- 43 **cover]** wear their hats as masters. 'How many that are now in menial positions and have to stand uncovered in the presence of their masters, would then be raised to positions of rank,' &c.
- 46 **seed of honour]** children of persons of rank. 'How many such, if stationed according to their merits, would be classed with peasantry, and how many peasants would be ennobled.'
- 47 **ruin]** refuse ; rubbish ; the lowest classes.
- 53 **blinking]** seeing obscurely, or with half-closed eyes ; or, it may mean *smiling*, an old sense of the word.
- 54 **schedule]** a scroll ; a written paper.
- 60 A man cannot judge impartially of his own offences.
- 62 The *fi*er sev'n | times tri|ed this.
- 67 **iwis]** 'The adv. *iwis* (certainly) is often printed *Iwis* or *I wis* ; whence, by con-
- fusion of *i* (= A.-S. *ge-*) with the first personal pronoun, the supposed verb *wis*, to know, has been evolved ; but it is a fiction of editors.' *Skeat*. Shakespeare probably wrote *Iwis* = I know.
- 68 so was this picture of one (being in a silver casket).
- 70 You will always have a fool's head.
- 73 **by the time]** in proportion to the time.
- 77 **wroth]** misery ; misfortune.
- 80 Their fancied shrewdness or over-wisdom leads them to a wrong choice.
- 81 **is no heresy]** it still agrees with popular opinion and is supported by experience.
- 84 **my lord]** a playful jest on 'Where is my lady?' Portia is in high spirits at escaping two unwished-for suitors.
- 86 **young Venetian]** Gratiano.
- 88 **sensible regrets]** substantial greetings.
- 89 **To wit]** namely (lit. *to know*). **commends]** compliments ; greetings.
- 90 **yet]** = till now.
- 91 **likely]** promising.
- 94 **fore-spurrer]** one who rides on in front.
- 96 **anon]** presently.
- 97 **high-day wit]** holiday wit ; excessive wit.
- 99 **Cupid's post]** the one that rides post, or acts as courier to Cupid.
- 100 **lord Love]** Cupid. This is suggested to Nerissa by Portia's mention of Cupid.

## ACT III.

## SCENE I.

- 2 **lives unchecked]** is reported and not contradicted.

- 4 **narrow seas**] the English Channel.  
**the Goodwins**] the Goodwin sands off the east coast of Kent, said to have been formerly an island the property of Earl Godwin, inundated A.D. 1100.
- 7 **gossip**] a crony, or familiar acquaintance. Originally, a god-parent or sponsor in baptism. (M. E. *God*, god; *sib*, related.)
- 9 **knapped ginger**] broke ginger to produce watering of the eyes for a pretence of weeping. [Ginger was a favourite condiment with old people. — *Wright*.]
- 11 **slips**] digressions.  
**prolixity**] tediousness; tiresome length.
- 21 **cross**] thwart; hinder.
- 28 **withal**] emphatic form of *with*, used at the end of a sentence. *Salarino* puns on the word 'flight,' and jestingly alleges an absurd kind of knowledge in order to turn Shylock's charge to ridicule.
- 30 **complexion**] nature, disposition.
- 38 **match**] bargain.
- 40 **smug**] neat; spruce; smart.
- 41 **mart**] a shortened form of *market*.
- 42 **wont**] used; accustomed.
- 49 **half a million**] from gaining half a million ducats.
- 51 **thwarted**] crossed; hindered.
- 54 **dimensions**] single parts of the body: *Schmidt*. Qualities of stature, &c. : *Hunter*.  
**fed**] supply 'Is he not.'
- 63 **his humility**] the meekness of the Christian. (*His* is emphatic.)
- 64 **sufferance**] forbearance; patience.
- 67 **better the instruction**] exceed you in revenge.
- 72 **matched**] matched with them; found to match them.  
**Jew**] nom. case, in apposition with *devil*, complement to *turn* = become.
- 79 **till now**] (*now*, adv. used as noun, obj. of prep. *till*.) It never came home to me, I never realised it till now. There is probably a reference to Scripture prophecies of calamities on the Jews.
- 94 **an argosy**] compare I. iii. 18.
- 113 **for a monkey**] formerly monkeys were fashionable pets with ladies. Perhaps Tubal invented this story to play on Shylock.
- 115 **turquoise**] [*-koiz*] a bluish-green gem brought from Persia; formerly supposed to have the magical property of changing colour with a change of health or feeling in its wearer, and therefore often given as a love-token, as this one seems to have been. Note the touching mention of Leah, the long dead but not forgotten wife. This sentence seems to lay bare Shylock's heart, and to show that with better surroundings he had been a much better man.
- 120 **bespeak him**] engage him beforehand by paying his fee now.
- 122 **Merchandise**] trade; profit.
- 123 **at our synagogue**] Shylock is not a hypocrite in going to worship with revengeful feelings in his heart; understanding the Jewish law as he understood the Venetian, literally, he sees no moral wrong in retaliation (Ex. xxi. 23-25).

## SCENE II.

- 2 **in choosing wrong**] in the event of your choosing wrong.

- According to grammatical structure this participial phrase should qualify 'I,' but the sense does not admit of that.
- 6 If I hated you, I should not ask you to stay.
- 8 It is thought unbecoming in a maiden to speak her thoughts—that is, on love.
- 11 **then I am]** in that case I should be.
- 14 **beshrew]** a mild form of imprecation = *woe to*; used here playfully and tenderly.
- 15 **o'er-look'd]** bewitched; fascinated. A reference to the superstition that witches and fairies could bewitch with a glance of the eye.
- divided me]** so that my affections and my duty are opposed to each other.
- 20 **yours, not yours]** yours in affection, but not in law.
- prove it so]** if it prove that you choose the wrong casket, so that I cannot be legally yours, Fortune ought to bear the misery that must follow, and not I.
- 22 **piece the time]** to prolong the time. [The old editions have 'peize,' another form of *poise*.]
- 23 **eke]** lengthen out.
- 27 **what treason]** an allusion to the use of the rack for extorting confessions.
- 29 **fear]** = doubt.
- 30-1 Treason and my love could no more exist together than snow and fire can.
- 33 **speak anything]** yet the rack was used for years after this was written.
- 35 **confess and love, &c.]** had you said 'confess and love' you would have expressed the substance of what I have to say.
- 37 **torment, torturer]** keeping up the allusion to the rack.
- 44 **swan-like end]** swans were fabled to sing at the approach of death. *Oth.* V. ii. 247.
- 45 **fading]** departing; dying.
- 49 **flourish]** one of the customary ceremonies of a coronation is a flourish of trumpets when the crown is placed on the head.
- 51 **dulcet]** sweet.
- 54 **presence]** dignity of mien; commanding appearance.
- 55 **Alcides]** notes II. i. 32, 35. The fable runs that the king of Troy having offended Neptune, his coasts were ravaged by a sea-monster. He was told that the only way of deliverance was to expose his daughter, and she was therefore chained to a rock on the shore. Just then Hercules arrived, and slew the monster—not, however, out of any regard for the maiden, but in order to win two valuable horses promised by her father.
- 58 **Dardanian wives]** women of Troy.
- 59 **bleared]** weeping; inflamed with weeping.
- 61 **live thou, I live]** my life and hopes depend on your success as much as your own.
- 62 **the fray]** the encounter. The comparison with Alcides is kept up to the end of the speech.
- 63 **fancy]** liking; preference depending on outside show. Probably the song refers to the caskets, and possibly was meant as a warning to Bassanio against being misled by outside appearance. At all events, it seems to have acted so, for he takes up the same subject and enlarges on it in his next speech.

- 68 **dies**] on discovering the worthlessness of its object.
- 70 **ring fancy's knell**] her hope being that Bassanio will not be guided by fancy.
- 73-4 **least themselves**] least like the reality.
- 74 **still**] constantly ; ever.
- 75-6 **tainted . . . seasoned**] as the fact that meat is tainted may be disguised by seasoning or condiments.
- 76 **gracious**] winning ; pleasing.
- 78 **sober**] grave ; dignified.
- 79 **approve**] prove ; justify.
- 81 **simple**] silly ; witless (*Schmidt*) ; unmixed (*Hunter*).
- 84 **stairs of sand**] which appear substantial, but crumble under the feet of those who trust them. [Some editions have *stayers* = supports.]
- 84-5 **wear . . . beards**] put on the show of manly daring.
- 86 **livers white**] note II. i. 7.
- 87 **excrement**] *outgrowth* ; the hair, 85. A doublet of *ex-crescence*. (L. *ex*-, out ; *crescere*, to grow.)
- 88 **redoubted**] formidable ; terrible to foes.
- 91 **lightest**] a pun on two senses of 'light,' *i.e.* in weight and in conduct ; or, perhaps, in weight and in colour. 'Golden locks,' in l. 92, seems to favour latter meaning. Queen Elizabeth's vanity was flattered by mention of 'golden locks,' though hers were red.
- 92 **snaky**] winding ; spiral. Possibly an allusion to the deceitful, beguiling habits attributed to snakes.
- 94 **upon supposed fairness**] worn by persons of made-up or fictitious beauty. In his

68th Sonnet, *Shakespeare* speaks of a time :

Before the golden tresses of the dead,—  
The right of sepulchres,—were shorn  
away,  
To live a second life on second head ;  
Ere beauty's dead fleece made another  
gay.

- 95 **dowry**] the property of a woman, especially what she brings to her husband at marriage.
- 96 **them, in**] them being in.
- 97 **guiled**] deceitful ; full of guile. Compare 'bless'd,' IV. i. 177.
- 99 **Indian beauty**] there is a difficulty about the use of this word 'beauty,' since the sense of the passage is that the scarf lends a fictitious beauty to what is in itself repulsive. Various words have been suggested in lieu of 'beauty' ; perhaps 'bosom' is the best of them. Possibly the meaning is, that an Indian woman reputed a beauty in her own country would be thought no beauty in Italy or England.
- 102 **Midas**] a Greek fable runs, that Midas prayed Bacchus that all he touched might turn to gold. His wish was granted ; but since he could not eat gold, he found himself starving in the midst of wealth, and prayed the god to withdraw his fatal gift.
- 103 **common drudge**] payments in silver being much commoner than those in gold.
- 105 **threat'nest**] the inscription was of a threatening character ; those on the other caskets were promises.
- 108 **passions fleet**] other passions (such as doubts, &c.) vanish in the presence of her great joy.

- 110 **green-ey'd jealousy**] in *Othello* III. iii. 167, jealousy is called 'a green-ey'd monster.'
- 111 **ecstasy**] excessive joy.
- 114 **surfeit**] feel sick with excess.
- 115 **counterfeit**] portrait. (Fr. *contresait*, imitated.)
- 117 **or whether**] Perhaps additional emphasis is sought by combining two particles. A previous whether is implied in the words 'Move those eyes?' *Abbott*.  
**riding on . . . mine**] the image of them being on my moving eyeballs.
- 122 **a golden mesh**] a web of golden threads. I. i. 166.
- 126 **unfurnish'd**] without a fellow or companion, since he could not then have drawn the other eye.  
**yet look**] *i.e.* at Portia.  
**how far**] = as far. Portia as much exceeds the portrait in beauty, as the portrait excels my praise.
- 130 **continent**] that which contains.
- 132 **chance as fair**] are guided by fortune to as happy issue.
- 136 **hold your fortune**] regard your luck or fortune as a blessing.
- 140 **by note**] by written order of the scroll.  
*To give a kiss, and to receive a bride.*
- 141 **in a prize**] in a prize contest; or, about or for a prize.
- 147 **as doubtful**] as he that wins the prize, l. 144.
- 149 **I stand**] 'I' emphatic, in allusion to Bassanio's 'So stand I.'
- 152 **for you**] it says much for Bassanio that such a woman should form so high an opinion of him as this speech implies. Perhaps the remembrance of his poverty gave him an air of diffidence, and she wanted to set him at ease.
- 153 **myself**] stands for all Portia's attractions, virtues, &c., l. 156.
- 156 **livings**] estates; property.
- 158 **sum of nothing**] Some editions have 'sum of something;' but 'nothing' seems to suit best the negative character which follows. In either case Portia wishes to dispraise herself.  
**term in gross**] describe in the aggregate; sum up.
- 160 **happy**] fortunate.
- 161 **happier than this** (in that).
- 163 **happiest** (thing or circumstance) of all.
- 167 **converted**] turned over.  
**but now**] just now; until you made your choice.
- 169 **even now**] at the present moment, now your choice is made.
- 171 **with this ring**] a ring is often given as a pledge of affection and token of fidelity. It serves here to prolong the interest of the play, and give it a merry ending.
- 173 **presage**] foreshow; indicate prophetically.
- 174 **vantage**] opportunity; favourable opening.  
**exclaim on**] cry out against; reproach.
- 178 **as**] rel. pro., nom. to *doth appear*.  
**fairly**] well; gracefully.  
**spoke**] = spoken (*past tense for perfect participle*).
- 179 **prince**] royal personage, male or female. May refer to Elizabeth.
- 181 **every something**] all the individual remarks or exclamations.  
**blent**] blended; mingled.

- 182 **wild of nothing]** nothing articulate or distinguishable.  
 183 **express'd, &c.]** expressed, but not in articulate language.  
 184 **parts]** departs ; quits.  
 187 **that]** rel. pro. ; the antecedent is involved in *our = for us, or of us.*  
 191 **none from me]** *none away from me* ; none that I shall lose (*Johnson*). Rather, none *beyond what I wish you (Staunton).*  
 195 **so]** if ; provided that.  
 199 **intermission]** (five syll.) delay.  
 200 **pertains to me]** I am as eager for a wife, and as little brook delay, as you, my lord.  
 203 **sweat]** = sweated.  
**again]** in consequence ; as the result.  
 208 **achiev'd]** won ; gained.  
 209 **stand pleas'd withal]** approve of it ; sanction it.  
 211 **'faith]** = in faith ; in truth.  
 212 **shall be]** = will be.  
 213 **his infidel]** his Jewish wife. The word carries a stigma, as implying unfaithfulness or dishonesty, and ought not therefore to be lightly used, as it is by Gratiano.  
 216 **new interest, &c.]** if my newly acquired position here justifies my bidding, &c.  
 218 **very friends]** true, veritable friends.  
 220 **entirely]** heartily.  
 222 **to have seen]** = to see. 'In Elizabethan as in early English authors, after verbs of *hoping, intending, . . .* the Complete Present Infinitive is used.'—*Abbott.*  
 224 **past saying nay]** beyond possibility of refusal.  
 231 **estate]** state ; condition.  
 234 **royal]** noble ; generous (*Schmidt*) ; or wealthy, as in

- IV. i. 29. Compare 'merchant princes.'  
 236 **Jasons]** I. i. 167 *note.*  
 238 **shrewd]** bad ; evil.  
 241 **constitution]** (five syll.) mental state, or temper of mind.  
 242 **constant]** firm ; steadfast.  
 250 **a gentleman]** *i.e.* by blood or birth.  
 253 **braggart]** a vain boaster.  
 256 **engaged]** pawned ; pledged.  
 257 **mere]** unqualified ; thorough-going.  
 258 **To feed my means]** to raise money.  
 259 **the paper (being) as.**  
 261 **issuing]** emitting. Generally intrans., but trans. here.  
 262 **not one hit]** not one succeeded.  
 265 **touch]** contact ; encounter,  
 266 **merchant-marring]** that ruin merchants.  
 267 **should appear]** = appears. [*Should* expresses doubt and perplexity. *Schmidt.*]  
 271 **confound]** ruin ; destroy.  
 272 **plies]** importunes ; presses his suit on.  
 273 **impeach]** deny ; call in question. He says that citizens are not equal before the law if his claim is not allowed.  
 275 **magnificoes]** grandees ; noblemen.  
 276 **port]** rank ; importance.  
**persuaded with]** advised ; tried to persuade.  
 277 **envious]** spiteful ; malignant.  
 284 **deny]** forbid it.  
 288 **condition'd]** disposed ; tempered.  
**unwearied]** = *most unwearied*, the sense of the superlative *best* being understood here. II. i. 46.  
 291 **any]** obj. after *in* understood. 'Than it appears in any.'  
 293 **for me]** on my account ; it is not his debt, but mine.



- 294 **deface]** cancel.  
 296 **description]** 4 syllables.  
 297 **hair]** 2 syllables.  
 307 **cheer]** countenance.  
 312 **forfeit]** = forfeited, *p.p.*  
 314 **between you and I]** a common error, *I* for *me*. For euphony. *Abbott*.

## SCENE III.

- 9 **naughty]** bad ; wicked.  
**fond]** foolish ; silly.  
**to come]** = *as* to come.  
 14 **dull - ey'd]** sad - looking (*Schmidt*) ; wanting in perception (*Wright*).  
 16 **intercessor]** one who tries to reconcile foes ; a mediator. III. ii. 275.  
 18 **impenetrable]** relentless ; proof against pity.  
 19 **kept]** dwelt ; lived.  
 20 **bootless]** profitless ; vain.  
 22 **forfeitures]** penalties for not paying money when due.  
 23 **made moan]** complained.  
 25 **grant to hold]** allow to be good in law, or permit to be carried out.  
 26 **deny . . . law]** 'refuse to let the law take its course.'  
 27 **for]** on account of. Staunton suggests that possibly this line, 'intended by the author to be cancelled, was carelessly inserted by the old printers.' The text follows Capell.  
**commodity]** accommodation (*Schmidt*) ; trade.  
 29 **impeach the justice, &c.]** III. ii. 273. It will destroy that public confidence which is the foundation of trade.  
 32 **bated]** reduced ; weakened.  
 33 **spare . . . to]** have left for.

## SCENE IV.

- 2 **conceit]** conception ; idea.  
 3 **amity]** friendship.

- 7 **lover]** The use of this word between persons of same sex, common once, is now unusual. Ben Jonson, in a letter to Dr. Donne, signs himself his '*true lover*.'  
 9 **enforce you (to be)]** You have more reason to be proud of this act of self-denial than of any ordinary act of benevolence.  
 10 **repent for]** now *repent of*.  
 11 **nor . . . not]** In E.E., as in modern French, double negatives are common. They were thought emphatic. In Modern English they neutralise each other.  
 12 **waste]** spend ; employ.  
 13 **bear equal yoke]** where the love is thoroughly mutual.  
 14 **needs]** of necessity.  
**proportion of lineaments]** resemblance in features. Physiognomists teach that there is such harmony between mind and body, that the character of the mind may be discerned by studying the features, especially those of the face.  
 20 **my soul]** Bassanio.  
 25 **husbandry]** stewardship.  
**manage]** management.  
 31 **monastery]** a convent ; a home for monks or nuns.  
 33 **deny this imposition]** refuse this charge or task.  
 49 **Padua]** a city twenty miles west of Venice. We are not told the position of Belmont, but l. 82 seems to imply that it, too, was twenty miles from Venice. From II. vi. 65 we learn that it was approached by water, and must therefore have lain either N.E. or S. from Venice. Balthazar's journey, then, would be about fifty miles.

- 51 **look]** take care.  
 52 **imagined speed]** quick as thought.  
 53 **traject]** ferry (It. *tragetto*, a ferry).  
**ferry]** = ferry-boat.  
 56 **convenient]** suitable.  
 59 **think of us** (seeing them).  
 60 **such a habit, &c.]** such a dress that they will mistake us for men.  
**accomplished]** furnished.  
 63 **accounted]** apparelled.  
 66-7 **Speak** with a shrill voice as a boy does when his voice is 'breaking' at the end of boyhood; and take one long stride where we are used to take two.  
 69 **quaint]** artful; skilful.  
 72 **I could, &c.]** I could not help it.  
**I'll repent]** I'll express regret.  
 75 **That]** = so that.  
 77 **raw]** crude; unskilful.  
**jacks]** a term of contempt for pert saucy fellows.  
 80 **coach]** this seems to be an anachronism (error in regard to time). Coaches came into use in the sixteenth century.

## SCENE V.

- 1 **s'rrah]** sir, used in contempt.  
 5 **cover]** lay the table for dinner.  
 8 **I know my duty]** namely, to stand uncovered in presence of my master. Note the pun.  
 9 **quarrelling with occasion]** seeking to elude the matter in question; replying perversely.  
 14 **for the table]** as regards the table. Note the absurd transpositions. Notes, II. ii. 73, II. v. 25.  
 18 **discretion]** judgment; taste, which Launcelot lacked.  
**suited]** fitted to each other.

- 20 **good words]** (Fr. *bons mots*) jests; repartees. An army of quibbling words.  
 21 **a many]** is not now good English, though a *few* is.  
**in better place]** in higher rank.  
 22 **tricksy word, &c.]** For the sake of a quibble they pervert the meaning of what is said.  
 23 **how cheer'st?]** How fares it with you? Are you happy in your new position?  
 30 **mean it]** mean to 'live an upright life,' l. 27. Possibly this speech was suggested by Luke xvi. 25.  
 31 **reason]** fairness; justice.  
 33 The subject of *lay* is ambiguous; if it be *gods*, then *lay* is trans.; if it be *women*, then *lay* is intrans.  
 35 **pawn'd with]** staked as part of the wager, or as a make-weight.  
 36 **fellow]** equal.  
 37 **of me]** in me.  
 38 **too]** in allusion to his having asked her about Portia.  
 41 **stomach]** quibble on two meanings, (1) appetite (= before dinner); (2) humour; inclination.  
 44 **digest it]** bear it with patience and good temper. 'Stomach it' is used in like sense.  
**set you forth]** describe you; show you up.

## ACT IV.

## SCENE I.

- 5 **uncapable]** = incapable. *Sh.* uses both forms of the word.  
**empty from]** *empty of* is the usual form in *Sh.*  
 6 **dram]** the smallest particle.

- 7 **qualify**] moderate ; temper ; soften.
- 8 **rigorous**] harsh ; relentless.  
**obdurate**] inflexible ; hard-hearted.
- 9 **no lawful means, &c.**] since the law cannot protect me from his malice.
- 18 **thou but lead'st**] thou carriest on this show of malice only till the hour of execution.
- 20 **remorse**] pity ; relenting.
- 21 **apparent**] seeming.
- 22 **where**] whereas.
- 24 **loose**] let go ; release.
- 26 **moiety**] a part ; strictly, a half.
- 28 **huddled**] thronged together ; crowded.  
**royal**] see note III. ii. 234.
- 30 **pluck commiseration of**] extort pity for.
- 32 **Turks and Tartars**] races notorious for their ruthless cruelty.
- 33 **courtesy**] kindness ; complaisance.
- 35 **possess'd**] informed. I. iii. 61.
- 37 **due**] debt.  
**forfeit**] penalty.
- 39 **charter**] a deed from the king or the legislature bestowing certain rights on a city, such as the free election of its own magistrates, &c. But Venice was an independent Republic from 997 to 1797.
- 43 **but, say**] but, suppose. 'I will not answer as to a legal question ; but, since you want an answer, will this serve you ?'  
**humour**] caprice (*Schmidt*) ; irresistible propensity (*Singer*).
- 46 **baned**] poisoned ; destroyed. We still use *bane* as a noun (as *ratsbane*), but not as a verb.
- 47 **love not**] who cannot endure.  
**gaping**] squealing. *Hen.* 8 V. iii. 3. [Some explain it of a pig's head cooked for table, with an orange in its mouth. But this comes so near the Jewish abhorrence of pork, that it was likely to rouse prejudice against Shylock ; besides, he could have given his reason for that.]
- 49 **firm**] good ; satisfactory.
- 50 **he**] one. 51 **he**] another.
- 52 **nor . . not**] Note III. iv. 11.
- 54 **that I follow**] why I follow.
- 55 **losing suit**] a suit by which I am certain to lose my money.
- 57 **to excuse, &c.**] to defend your persistent cruelty.
- 61 **offence**] displeasure ; feeling of resentment. [*Hate* is a much stronger word than *offence*. We may be offended with a person we love, but we cannot hate and love. Shylock is correct in saying that hatred desires the destruction of what is hated.]
- 63 **question**] plead. Remember you are trying to excite pity in one who has no pity.
- 65 **bid flood bate**] as Canute is said to have done.
- 69 **to make no noise**] *bid*, the verbal part of *forbid* (to bid away) l. 68, is understood. Or it may be another example of double negatives.
- 70 **fretted**] violently agitated.
- 75 **conveniency**] propriety ; what befits a legal process.
- 76 **judgment**] sentence passed ; doom.
- 77 **here is six**] = here is a *sum* of six (thousand). The thought is fixed on the *amount*, and not on the *number of coins*, which very probably was *not* 6,000. It is grammatically correct.
- 78 If you would give me six times 6,000 ducats I would not take them.

- 81 **rendering]** imp. part., attribute to *thou*. Compare James ii. 13.
- 82 **doing]** imp. part., attribute to I.
- 83 **purchased slave]** Shylock argues that it ill becomes Venetians to cry shame on him for buying a pound of human flesh, when they were themselves guilty of buying slaves body and soul.
- 85 **abject]** mean; despicable. **parts]** duties; employments.
- 89 **palates be seasoned]** tastes be gratified.
- 90 **such viands]** such food as you eat yourselves.
- 91 **The slaves are ours]** by what right do you dictate to us how we shall treat them?
- 94 **lie upon your law]** your administration of the law will be disgraced, or brought into contempt by your manifest partiality.
- 97 **upon my power]** on my authority; I have the legal power.
- 99 **to determine this]** to decide what the law is in this case.
- 102 **new come]** newly come; just arrived.
- 107 **tainted wether]** diseased sheep; having no joy in life, and therefore fitter to die than those in health.
- 111 **my epitaph]** the inscription on my tomb.
- 115 **bankrupt]** one unable to pay his debts; an insolvent trader.
- 116 **sole . . . soul]** compare *Jul. Cas.* I. i. 15. 'Gratiano means that the Jew's heart is hard as a whetstone.'
- 118 **hangman's axe]** a hangman (proper) uses a rope, not an axe; the word is used in the more general sense of *executioner*. Cupid is so called in *Much Ado*, III. ii. 11.
- 121 **inexorable]** relentless; not to be moved by entreaty.
- 122 **for thy life]** for allowing thee to live.
- 123 **waver in faith]** doubt the Christian faith in the particular referred to.
- 124 **hold opinion with]** be of the same opinion as. **Pythagoras]** a philosopher of Samos, who, it is said, taught the doctrine of the transmigration of souls.
- 127 **who]** nom. absolute. **hang'd]** per. part., attribute to *who*.
- 128 **fell]** fierce; savage; cruel. **fleet]** flit; fly. III. ii. 108.
- 131 **starv'd]** you seem as eager for Antonio's blood as if you were a starving wolf. **ravenous]** furiously voracious; of greedy appetite.
- 132 **rail the seal off]** until by railing you can invalidate the bond. **from off]** off from. III. iv. 21.
- 133 **offend'st]** injurest; annoyest.
- 135 **careless]** incurable. [Probably Shylock meant to imply that Gratiano's speeches were little better than the ravings of a fool or an idiot.]
- 141 **courteous]** polite; civil. **conduct]** guidance; escort.
- 144 **at the receipt]** at the time I received.
- 145 **in loving visitation]** on visit of friendship, not of business.
- 146 **Balthazar]** the name of the messenger Portia sent to Bellario.
- 147 **cause in controversy]** matter in dispute.
- 148 **turned . . . books]** i.e. to find laws or precedents (similar cases) to guide them in deciding the matter.
- 149-151 **which . . . comes**

- with him]** which he brings with him.
- 151 **importunity]** urgent request ; pressing solicitation.
- 152 **fill up]** fulfil.
- 153 **impediment, &c.]** hindrance to his receiving.
- 154 **reverend estimation]** respectful consideration ; his being thought worthy of respect.
- 156 **whose]** this relative is used rather loosely, since it is uncertain whether *him* or *you* (involved in *your*) is the antecedent. 'His conduct as a judge will approve his wisdom better than my praises can.'
- 159 **I take it]** I judge ; I apprehend.
- 161 **your place]** a seat beside or below the duke. [Portia is *judge*, not *counsel*.]
- 162 **difference]** dispute ; contention.
- 164 **thoroughly]** thoroughly. 'Thoroughly' (*adv.*) is now obsolete, and so is 'thorough' as a *prep.*
- 168 **suit you follow]** action-at-law you prosecute.
- 169 **in such rule]** in such legal order.
- 170 **impugn]** attack ; resist.
- 171 **his danger]** = danger of him ; within his legal power to hurt.
- 173-4 **must]** Portia uses the word to express *moral duty*. Shylock emphasises it to express *legal compulsion*.
- 175 **quality]** nature ; character. **strained]** forced ; constrained. [It is of the *essence* of mercy that it should be free and spontaneous.]
- 176 'Mercy is seasonable in the time of affliction, as clouds of rain in the time of drought.' Eccles. xxxv. 20.
- 177 **bless'd]** i.e. the means or medium of blessing to others (*not* an object of blessing itself). Compare 'guiled' III. ii. 97. '*Shakespeare* often uses the passive participle actively.'
- 178 **him that gives]** Acts xx. 35.
- 179 **mightiest]** It is most forcible or efficacious when shown by those who have the greatest power, and are therefore least under the compulsion you speak of. **becomes]** suits ; befits ; it is a more royal characteristic than a crown is.
- 181 **shows]** represents ; is an emblem of.
- 182 **attribute]** essential quality. [The power symbolised by the sceptre is essential to the kingly office, as it serves to keep unruly subjects in awe ; but mercy is a nobler thing than power, &c.]
- 183 **wherein doth sit]** on which doth rest ; which is the ground or reason of.
- 187 **show]** appear.
- 188 **seasons]** moderates ; tempers.
- 189 **be thy plea]** though you plead for strict justice.
- 190 **in the course of justice]** if strict justice were allowed its course.
- 192 **to render]** to do or pay as in duty bound. [It more commonly means to repay or requite.]
- 193 **spoke]** = spoken. [*Shakespeare* frequently uses the past tense for the perf. part.]
- 194 **mitigate]** soften ; make less severe.
- 195 **which if thou follow]** if you insist on strict justice.
- 196 **needs]** of necessity.
- 197 **upon my head]** I accept the penalty ; I will show no

- mercy, though it involve the denial of mercy to myself.
- 199 **discharge]** pay.
- 205 **truth]** honesty. [It will be manifest that the Jew is actuated by malice, and not by a desire to defend his just rights.]
- 206 **wrest once]** for this one occasion, twist the meaning of the law ; give it a biased interpretation. Strain the letter of the law (*do a little wrong*), to vindicate its spirit (*to do a great right*).
- authority]** 209 **no power]** no single person has such a power as you speak of, to set aside established laws.
- 211 **precedent]** example warranting similar acts in the future.
- 214 **a Daniel]** in allusion to the youthful appearance and the wisdom of the judge. In the History of Susanna, Daniel when a judge is spoken of as a 'young youth.'
- 219 **an oath]** see l. 36.
- 220 **perjury]** false swearing.
- 221 **forfeit]** forfeited ; the penalty provided in the deed has been incurred by breach of the conditions.
- 226 **tenour]** sense *continued* [When its provisions have been carried out.]
- 228 **exposition]** interpretation ; laying open of the sense.
- 229 **sound]** just ; valid ; unbiassed.
- 230 **pillar]** supporter ; maintainer (209-213).
- 233 **stay]** remain fixed and unalterable.
- 239 **hath full relation]** is fully recognised. [The penalty may be legally enforced.]
- 242 **more elder]** example of double comparative. 'The inflections *-er* and *-est*, though retained, yet lost some of their force, and sometimes received the

- addition of *more*, *most*, for the purpose of greater emphasis.'—*Abbott*.
- 246 **are there balance]** as the *-s* for the possessive inflection is often omitted when the noun without it ends in a sibilant, as '*conscience*' sake,' '*Moses*' seat'; so the *-s* for the plural inflection is sometimes omitted when the singular ends in a sibilant ; as
- 'Their sense are shut.'
- Macbeth* V. i. 29.
- 'My sense are stopped.'
- Sonnet 112.
- 248 **on your charge]** at your expense.
- 250 **nominated]** named ; provided.
- 252 **were . . do]** = did : Note want of concord in tenses. A present is implied in were : 'It were and is.'—*Abbott*.
- charity]** *dearness* ; goodwill. [It were easy for Portia or Bassanio to provide the surgeon. The whole purpose of Portia, up to this point, is to elicit any spark of kindness there may be in the Jew, and so save him from the penalty he has ignorantly incurred ; and, failing that, to prove his utter cruelty, and so far justify the heavy sentence passed upon him.]
- 257 **fallen to this]** fallen into this misfortune.
- 258 **herein]** in this particular case.
- Fortune]** chance or fate. A personification.
- 259 **still]** constantly ; usually.
- use]** habit ; custom.
- 261 **to view]** that he may view.
- 262 **age of poverty]** old age spent in poverty.
- lingering penance]** long endured suffering. [Penance strictly means a voluntary

- punishment for misdeeds, and a sign of *penitence*.]
- 263 **mise'ry**] accented on second syllable. But, perhaps 'a' has been omitted after 'such.'
- 264 **commend me**] remember me; give my greeting or compliments.
- 265 **process**] manner; how it came about.
- 266 **speak me fair**] speak kindly or well of me after my death.
- 268 **love**] = lover; loving friend.
- 270 **repent not**] do not blame or reproach yourself.
- 271 **he repents not**] he grieves not. [Some editions have in l. 270 'repent *but*.' 'Repent' then means 'grieve' in both cases.]
- 272 **all my heart**] a pun on two meanings — (1) with hearty willingness, (2) with my heart's blood. ['A jest like this enhances the pathos.'—*Wright*. Sir Thomas More, Sir Walter Raleigh, and others died with jests on their lips.]
- 276 **esteem'd**] valued. [*L. astimare*, to value.]
- 277 **lose**] reconcile myself to the involuntary loss.
- sacrifice**] give up voluntarily.
- 279 **little thanks**] implying that she would be likely to give the opposite of thanks. l. 285.
- 282 **I wish she were in heaven**] I wish she were dead in order that, her soul being in heaven, she might entreat, &c.
- 286 These are samples of the sort of husbands Christians make, and my daughter has married such a one! In spite of its dominating animosity to the Christians, this speech gives a glimpse of tenderness towards Jessica. Compare III. i. 115 and *note*.
- 287 **stock**] race; family; lineage. **Barrabas**] the spelling in early versions of the name in Luke xxiii. 19. As Barabbas was preferred to Christ, so Shylock would prefer one of his seed to a Christian.
- 289 **pursue sentence**] continue the sentence; complete the judgment.
- 295 **a sentence**] the sentence is pronounced.
- 297 **jot**] point; the smallest possible quantity. [English form of Gr. *iota*, the letter *i*.]
- 300 **cutting**] gerund (verbal noun). According to modern usage the gerund following 'the' has no power to govern an object, and is therefore followed by *of*. We should now either say 'in cutting it,' or 'in the cutting of it.'
- 302, 323 **confiscate**] confiscated; forfeited. 'Some verbs ending in *-te*, *-t*, and *-d*, on account of their already resembling participles in their terminations, do not add *-ed* in the participle.'—*Abbott*.
- 305 **act**] decree; statute.
- 307 **thou desir'st**] compare 'I crave the law,' l. 197.
- 309 **this offer**] made in line 225.
- 311 **soft**] hold; stop.
- 318 **a just pound**] exact pound, l. 317.
- 319 **in the substance**, &c., in the amount of a grain ( $\frac{1}{70}$  scruple), or a fraction of a grain.
- 322 **estimation of a hair**] if the flesh be a hair heavier or lighter. [Or, possibly, if the scales be uneven by a hair's breadth.]
- 325 **infidel**] III. ii. 213.
- on the hip**] I. iii. 43.
- 327 **principal**] the sum lent; 3,000 ducats.
- 329 **in open court**] publicly, in the presence of the court now sitting.
- 335 **so**] as expressed in the bond.

- 336 **devil give him good]** a sinister wish = may it be a curse to him. The conception about the devil was that, if he promised a good thing, he made it a bad one—a Dead Sea apple.
- ‘That keep the word of promise to our ear,  
And break it to our hope.’  
*Macbeth* V. viii. 21.
- 337 **question]** discussion; talk.
- 340 **alien]** stranger; foreigner. [*L. alienus*, strange; a stranger.]
- 341 **indirect]** under pretence of taking a pound of flesh, Shylock meant to take life.
- 342 **citizen]** a native; a member of the state. Opposed to *alien*, 340.
- 343 **party]** a law term for either side in a lawsuit.
- 343 **contrive]** plot; lay schemes.
- 345 **privy]** private; for secret use.
- coffer]** chest; money-chest; treasury. [*Fr. coffre*, chest. Compare coffin.]
- 348 **predicament]** category; condition; fix.
- 349 **manifest proceeding]** plain evidence; on the very face of the claim itself.
- 352 **defendant]** the party against whom a legal action is taken, and who is called upon to *defend* himself. The person who takes the action is called the *plaintiff* or *complainant*.
- 353 **rehears'd]** recited; set forth.
- 359 **shalt]** mayst.
- 360, 365 **pardon life]** remit sentence of death.
- 363 **humbleness, &c.]** a becoming submission on your part may lead me to inflict a fine in lieu of the forfeiture.
- 371 **so please]** I beg it may please.
- 372 **quit the fine]** remit the fine;

release Shylock from the payment.

- 374 **in use]** in trust, to manage for the benefit of Lorenzo and Jessica.—*Wright*. ‘In trust for Shylock.’—*Hunter*. [It is difficult to make out the exact nature of the arrangement. If *Lor.* and *Jes.* are to be benefited, why must they wait for the principal till Shylock’s death? If Shylock is to have a life interest in it, putting the money in Antonio’s hands may have been designed to prevent its being otherwise disposed of; but how could a man of Antonio’s principles pay Shylock interest?]
- 377 **two things provided]** subject to two more conditions.
- 378 **presently]** forthwith; at once.
- 380 **possess'd]** possessed of; or, ‘all of *which* he dies possess’d.’
- 382 **recant]** revoke; recall.
- 390 **ten more]** i.e. twelve, to make up a jury—jestingly called godfathers-in-law.
- 391 **bring]** used in two senses: (1) Cause to be brought to gallows by their verdict. (2) Accompanying to font.
- 396 **serves you not]** is not at your command.
- 397 **gratify]** reward; give such acknowledgment as will gratify.
- 398 **bound]** beholden; obliged.
- 401 **in lieu whereof]** in return for which.
- 403 **cope]** repay; requite.  
**withal** (III. i. 28) prep. gov. *ducats*.
- 409 **more mercenary]** desired more reward than the satisfaction that comes of doing a good action.



- 412 **of force]** of necessity. I am constrained to press some reward on your acceptance.
- 413 **as a tribute]** acknowledgment of indebtedness or obligation, not in discharge of the debt.
- 421 **a trifle]** too mean a thing to give you.
- 422 **to give]** by giving (gerundial infinitive).
- 424, 430 **methinks]** it seems to me.
- 435 **'scuse]** excuse. *Othello* IV. i. 80.
- 436 **an if]** I. ii. 42.
- 438 **hold out enemy]** continue your enemy.
- 441 **my love withal]** together with my love; my love in addition.
- 442 **commandement]** four syllables. So spelt in French.
- 446 **will thither]** will go thither. Verbs of motion are often omitted before adverbs of direction. IV. ii. 2.

## SCENE II.

- 6 **advice]** consideration.
- 15 **old]** copious; plentiful; overmuch.—*Schmidt*. Intensive epithet.—*Wright*.

## ACT V.

## SCENE I.

- 1 **in]** during.
- 4 **Troilus]** son of Priam, King of Troy, in love with Cressida. During the siege of Troy by the Greeks she was taken from him and given to the Greeks in exchange for a Trojan prisoner.
- 7 **Thisbe]** Pyramus and Thisbe were Babylonian lovers,

Thisbe, going to meet Pyramus, saw, by moonlight, a lioness, and ran terrified into a cave.

**fearfully]** in great fear; timorously.

- 10 **Dido]** Queen of Carthage, who, in grief for the departure of Æneas, destroyed herself. Shakespeare supposes her to follow him to the beach and beckon him, in hopes he would return. The *willow* is the symbol of forsaken love.
- 13 **Medea]** daughter of the King of Colchis. She fell in love with Jason, helped to seize the golden fleece, and fled with him to Greece. There, by magic arts, she restored Æson, the father of Jason, from the decrepitude of age to the vigour of youth. I. i. 167 *note*. The case of Jessica being somewhat parallel with that of Medea, suggests Lorenzo's next speech.
- 15 **steal]** in double sense: (1) slip away; (2) steal the treasure.
- 16 **unthrift]** *adj.* = unthrifty; good for nothing.
- 19 **stealing]** *imp. part.* attribute to *Lorenzo*. A retort on Lorenzo for accusing her of stealing.
- 20 **ne'er a true one]** not one honest vow among them.
- 21 **shrew]** sharp-tempered person; a vixen. Used playfully here.
- 22 **forgave it her]** *it*, direct obj.; *her*, indirect obj. = to her.
- 23 **outnight you]** beat you in the contention which could say most pretty things about the night.
- 28 **Stepha'no]** usually accented, as in *Tempest*, Steph'ano,

- 31 **crosses**] In Catholic countries crosses are common where roads intersect, and travellers may often be seen kneeling at them.
- 35 **nor . . . not**] double negative.
- 37 **ceremoniously**] duly ; with becoming attention.
- 39 **sola**] a cry to attract notice, in imitation of a post-horn.
- 46 **a post**] one riding post ; a courier.
- 47 **horn**] used to announce approach.
- 49 **expect**] await.
- 57 **become the touches**] accord with, or add a charm to music.
- 58 **floor of heaven**] the sky—heaven being supposed to be above the sky.
- 59 **patines**] small plates, usually of silver or gold, such as used in the Communion service.
- 61 **in his motion**] while it moves. *His* was formerly the possessive inflexion of *it* as well as of *he*. It is a common ‘conceit’ of the poets that the planets are
- ‘For ever singing as they shine.’
- 62 **still quiring**] continually singing in harmony.
- cherubins**] cherubs ; angels. The proper form of the Hebrew plural of *cherub* is *cherubim*. *Cherubin* occurs in the *Te Deum* as used in the Church of England. The English plural is *cherubs*. *Cherubins* adds the English plural inflection to the Hebrew plural.
- 63 **such harmony**] harmony of like kind.
- 66 **wake Diana**] *Diana* and *Luna* [*Selene*] the goddess of the Moon are often spoken of as identical, though very different in character, *Diana*

being unmoved by love, while *Selene* was in love with *Endymion*, line 109.

- 71 **wanton**] playful ; frolicsome.
- 72 **unhandled**] untrained ; not broken in.
- 73 **fetching**] making ; taking. [The herd *bellowing*, the colts *neighing*.]
- 74 **which is**] which indicates.
- 77 **mutual**] common ; acting under a common impulse.
- 78 **modest**] subdued ; the opposite of *savage*.
- 79 **the poet**] Ovid's *Metam.* x. xi.
- 80 **Orpheus**] an early poet and musician of Greece, whose song was fabled to have magic power over both animate and inanimate objects.
- 81 **stockish**] stupid ; *his*. l. 61.
- 85 **stratagems**] plots ; acts of treachery.
- spoils**] plunder ; robbery.
- 87 **Erebus**] Tartarus ; the gloomiest part of hell.
- 88 **enter Portia**] She is not noticed by Lorenzo till line 109.
- 94 **substitute**] lieutenant ; vice-roy.
- 97 **main of waters**] the ocean.
- 98 **your music**] apparently Portia kept musicians in her employ.
- 99 **without respect**] in itself absolutely ; without relation to its surroundings.
- 101 **silence**] that is, of the night. In the day time various noises mingle with the music and injure its effect.
- 103 **attended**] listened to ; regarded with attention.
- 107 **by seasons season'd**] are fully appreciated only when seen or heard in suitable relation to surrounding circumstances.
- 109 **moon sleeps with Endymion**] ‘In the ancient poet-

- ical and proverbial language of Elis, people said . . . "Selene [*the Moon*] kisses Endymion to sleep," instead of "it is night."—*Max Müller*, *Chips*, vol. ii. The moon being hid by a cloud, Portia playfully suggests she is sleeping and would not be disturbed.
- 112 **cuckoo . . . bad voice**] my voice bad in quality of tone, the Cuckoo's bad as an omen. A reference to its habit of laying eggs in other birds' nests. Of course Portia is joking about her voice.
- 114 **husbands' welfare, which speed**] the plural verb indicates that *husbands* is the antecedent of *which*, otherwise the construction would suggest *welfare*; **speed** indicates 'speedy return.'
- 121 **tucket**] a trumpet signal.
- 127 **hold day**] we should have day when the sun is shining on the opposite side of the world, if you, Portia, would walk abroad here.
- 129 **not be light**] in conduct.
- 132 **sort all**] ordain or dispose of all.
- 136 **in all sense**] in all reason.
- 141 **I scant**] I cut short mere compliments of words.
- 146 **posy**] poesy; motto.
- 148 **leave me not**] do not part with me.
- 149 **what talk you**] why talk you?
- 153 **though not for me**] If you did not care enough for me to make you value the ring.
- 154 **respective**] regardful of your oaths.
- 156 **on's**] on his.
- 160 **scrubbed**] short; stunted.
- 165 **slightly**] carelessly.
- 167 **with faith**] with vow of love or faithfulness.
- 170 **be sworn**] put on my oath.
- 172 **masters**] *v.* possesses; owns.
- 175 **I were best**] it were best for me.
- 179 **boy**] 180 **he**]. The subject *boy* being a long way from the predicate *begg'd*, a redundant *he* is introduced for clearness and emphasis.
- 187 **so void**] As your finger is void of the ring, even so, &c.
- 195 **the virtue**] the power; the right over me which belongs to its possessor, III. ii. 170-2.
- 197 **to contain**] to keep; to retain. Your honour was pledged to keep it safe.
- 200 **had pleased to have defended**] double perfect; usual form, 'had pleased to defend.'
- 201 **terms of zeal**] earnestness; warmth.
- wanted**] as to have wanted.
- 202 **ceremony**] sacred thing; thing consecrated. 'What man would have been so unreasonably wanting in modesty as to urge you to give up the thing you held as a sacred emblem?'
- 206 **civil doctor**] a punning title for a doctor of civil law.
- 210 **he**] refers back to *doctor* in l. 206. 'He had it that,' &c.
- held up**] supported; saved from destruction.
- 213 **beset**] urged by a sense of shame at being thought ungrateful, and a sense of what courtesy demanded.
- 214 I could not endure that my honour should be stained with ingratitude.
- 216 **candles of the night**] the stars. *Romeo* III. v. 9.
- 224 **subject**] cause.
- 226 **enforced wrong**] wrong which I was forced to commit.
- 232 **oath of credit**] an oath worthy of trust.

235 **wealth]** welfare ; prosperity.  
 236 **which]** body, or loan of body.  
 237 **had miscarried]** would have  
 perished or come to utter  
 loss.  
 238 **my soul** being pledged as  
 my body was before.  
 239 **advisedly]** deliberately.  
 250 **but even now]** I have only  
 just.  
 255 **richly]** with rich lading.  
**suddenly]** unexpectedly.  
 259 **life and living]** *life* in saving

me from Shylock's malice ;  
 and now the means of *living*.  
 261 **road]** roadstead ; port.  
 263 **without a fee]** alluding to  
 l. 162.  
 269 **not satisfied]** you would like  
 to hear a fuller account.  
 271 **inter'gatories]** shortened  
 form of law term—*interroga-*  
*tories* ; questions to be an-  
 swered upon oath.  
 273 **fear]** be anxious about.  
 274 **so sore]** so sorely ; so sensi-  
 tively.

## EXAMINATION PAPERS.

### FIRST SERIES.

#### A. (ACT I.)

1. Why, and under what conditions, did Antonio borrow money of Shylock ?
2. 'So is the will of a living daughter curbed by the will of a dead father.' How was this ?
3. 'Many Jasons come in quest of her.' Explain this.

#### B. (ACT II.)

1. Tell in your own words Launcelot's debate about running away from Shylock.
2. Explain 'Let us make incision for your love.'
3. On what conditions did Bassanio allow Gratiano to accompany him to Belmont ?

#### C. (ACT II.)

1. Relate Shylock's interview with Launcelot.
2. Write what you remember of Morocco's choice of the gold casket.
3. Explain the expression 'slubber not business.'

#### D. (ACT III.)

1. Describe Tubal's interview with Shylock.
2. State briefly Bassanio's reasons for choosing the leaden casket.
3. What did Antonio say in his letter ?

## E. (ACT III.)

1. What did Portia and Bassanio decide to do when they had read Antonio's letter?
2. Give Portia's description of a braggart.
3. Give Jessica's character of Portia.

## F. (ACT IV.)

1. Give a brief summary of the trial scene.
2. Why did Portia reason so long with Shylock before giving her decision?
3. Relate how Portia and Nerissa got their husbands' rings.

## G. (ACT V.)

1. Relate the circumstances of Portia's return to Belmont.
2. Tell briefly the story of the rings.
3. Explain the words—*usance*, *perjury*, *mask* (or *masque*), *notary*, *forfeiture*, *prodigal*, *Rialto*.

## SECOND SERIES.

## H.

1. Relate what you know of the condition of the Jews in Christian countries in former times.
2. What do you think of the character of Antonio?
3. Give the meaning and connection of the following :—
  - (a) So is Alcides beaten by his page.
  - (b) See my wealthy Andrew dock'd in sand.
  - (c) Fish not with this melancholy bait.
  - (d) Fast bind, fast find.

## I.

1. Write a short description of Venice.
2. What do you think of the character of Shylock?
3. Give the meaning and connection of the following :—
  - (a) The pageants of the sea.
  - (b) Who shall go about to cozen fortune?
  - (c) The magnificoes of greatest port have all persuaded with him.
  - (d) Pluck commiseration of his state from brassy bosoms.

## K.

1. What do you learn from this play of the character and learning of an ordinary English lord of the sixteenth century?

2. Describe the character of Portia.
3. Give the meaning and connection of the following :—
  - (a) You drop manna in the way of starved people.
  - (b) To be afraid of my deserving  
Were but a weak disabling of myself.
  - (c) How like a fawning publican he looks.
  - (d) Forgive me this enforced wrong

## L.

1. Mention any circumstances that seem to indicate that Shylock was not altogether void of kindly feelings.
2. Write what you know of the character of Bassanio.
3. Give the meaning and connection of the following :—
  - (a) Cupid himself would blush to see me thus transformed.
  - (b) The poet did feign that Orpheus drew trees, &c.
  - (c) I would out-night you.
  - (d) Mercy is above this sceptred sway.

## M.

1. Why ought we to pity Shylock in spite of his cruelty?
2. Mention any allusions to the fashions of the time.
3. Give the meaning and connection of the following :—
  - (a) Hard food for Midas, I will none of thee.
  - (b) With affection wondrous sensible.
  - (c) Use all the observance of civility.
  - (d) Hate counsels not in such a quality.

## N.

1. Mention any allusions to tortures formerly practised in England and other countries, and quote any passage that shows they were no helps to justice.
2. Give Arragon's reason for selecting the silver casket.
3. Give the meaning and connection of the following :—
  - (a) My honour would not let ingratitude  
So much besmear it.
  - (b) The floor of heaven  
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold.
  - (c) I'll pay it presently with all my heart.
  - (d) How little is the cost I have bestow'd  
In purchasing the semblance of my soul.

## APPENDIX.

## WORD BUILDING.

Words are either *Primary* or *Secondary*.

**Primary** words are such as cannot be resolved into simpler elements ; as *man*, *good*, *run*.

**Secondary** (or *Derivative*) words are such as may be resolved into simpler elements ; as *mankind*, *goodly*, *runner*.

A **Root** is a word from which secondary words are derived.

Secondary words are made by changing the form of the primary (as sing, *song* ; cloth, *clothe*), or by adding a *prefix* or *affix*.

A **Prefix** is a letter, syllable, or word placed *before* another word ; as *un-* in *unfix*, *en* in *enslave*.

An **Affix** is a letter, syllable, or word placed at the end of another word ; as *-ly* in *slowly*, *-ness* in *darkness*. When the secondary word consists of two or more primary words joined together without change of form, it is often called a **Compound** word ; as *arm-chair*, *hay-stack*, *tea-spoon*.

## DERIVATION OF NOUNS.

1. **Nouns** are formed from other **nouns** by prefixing *dis-*, *in-*, *mis-*, *un-* ; or affixing *-ade*, *-age*, *-an*, *-ant*, *-ar*, *-ard*, *-ary*, *-dom*, *-eer*, *-ess*, *-hood*, *-ier*, *-ian*, *-ism*, *-ist*, *-ite*, *-le*, *-or*, *-ow*, *-ric*, *-ry*, *-ship*, *-y*, *-en*, *-el*, *-et*, *-kin*, *-let*, *-ling*, *-ock*, *-ule*, *-ey*, *-ie*.

order	<i>disorder</i>	child	<i>childhood</i>	(Diminutives.)	
capacity	<i>incapacity</i>	coal	<i>collier</i>	maid	<i>maiden</i>
chance	<i>mischance</i>	music	<i>musician</i>	cat	<i>kitten</i>
rest	<i>unrest</i>	heathen	<i>heathenism</i>	sack	<i>satchel</i>
dress	<i>undress</i>	psalm	<i>psalmist</i>	cock	<i>cockerel</i>
lemon	<i>lemonade</i>	favour	<i>favourite</i>	circle	<i>circlet</i>
parent	<i>parentage</i>	hand	<i>handle</i>	lamb	<i>lambkin</i>
library	<i>librarian</i>	thumb	<i>thimble</i>	stream	<i>streamlet</i>
account	<i>accountant</i>	senate	<i>senator</i>	goose	<i>gosling</i>
school	<i>scholar</i>	shoal	<i>shallow</i>	hill	<i>hillock</i>
drink	<i>drunkard</i>	shade	<i>shadow</i>	Paul	<i>Pollock</i>
gloss	<i>glossary</i>	bishop	<i>bishopric</i>	globe	<i>globule</i>
king	<i>kingdom</i>	knave	<i>knavery</i>	Ann	<i>Annie</i>
auction	<i>auctioneer</i>	friend	<i>friendship</i>	Charles	<i>Charley</i>
priest	<i>priestess</i>	smith	<i>smithy</i>	John	<i>Johnny</i>

2. **Nouns** are formed from **adjectives** by affixing *-ary, -ate, -dom, -hood, -ist, -ity, -ling, -ness, -ry, -ship, -th, -ty*, &c., and by change of *-t* into *-ce* or *-cy*, or by change of vowel ; as—

adverse	adversary	cool	coolness	high	height <sup>1</sup>
potent	potentate	brave	bravery	dry	drought <sup>2</sup>
free	freedom	hard	hardship	absent	absence
false	falsehood	broad	breadth	vacant	vacancy
natural	naturalist	long	length	clement	clemency
timid	timidity	novel	novelty	proud	pride
dear	darling	honest	honesty		

3. **Nouns** are formed from **verbs** by affixing *-age, -ance, -ee, -el, -ence, -er, -ledge, -ier, -ion, -le, -ment, -ure, -ster, -t, -ter, -th* ; also by change of accent, by change of vowel, and by inter-change of hard and soft consonants ; as—

equip	equipment	instruct	instruction	sing	song
allow	allowance	bind	bundle	believe	belief
refer	referee	amuse	amusement	choose	choice
shove	shovel	depart	departure	break	breach
abhor	abhorrence	spin	spinster	wake	watch
hear	hearer	weigh	weight	hold	hilt
know	knowledge	laugh	laughter	wreath	wreath
cash	cashier	grow	growth	thrive	thrift
front	frontier	conduct	conduct		

4. **Compound Nouns** may be formed of—

- (a) Two nouns, the first of which qualifies or describes the second ; as *armchair, haystack, teaspoon, bear-garden, oak-tree, churchyard, inkstand, kinsman, noontide, Thursday*.
- (b) A noun with adjective prefix ; as *greyhound, blackbird, roundhead, quicksilver, fortnight*.
- (c) A noun preceded by a preposition or trans. verb, of which it is the object ; as *forenoon, wagtail, make-weight, stopgap*.
- (d) A verb preceded or followed by an adverb ; as *welfare, go-between, standstill, income, castaway, up-rising*.

<sup>1</sup> Corruption of *highth*.

<sup>2</sup> Corruption of *drought*.



## DERIVATION OF ADJECTIVES.

1. **Adjectives** are formed from other **adjectives** by prefixing *cis-*, *dis-*, *extra-*, *in-* (not), *inter-*, *intra-*, *pel-*, *sub-*, *ultra-*, *un-*, &c. [see Latin Prefixes], or by affixing *-al*, *-ish*, *-ly*, *-th* :

<i>cis</i> -alpine	<i>inter</i> -lunar	<i>ultra</i> -marine	good- <i>ly</i>
<i>dis</i> -honest	<i>intra</i> -mural	<i>un</i> -usual	four- <i>th</i>
<i>extra</i> -ordinary	<i>pel</i> -lucid	comic- <i>al</i>	fif- <i>th</i>
<i>in</i> -active	<i>sub</i> -aqueous	green- <i>ish</i>	twenti- <i>eth</i>

2. **Adjectives** are formed from **nouns**<sup>1</sup> by affixing *-ac*, *-al*, *-an*, *-ar*, *-ary*, *-ate*, *-ed*, *-en*, *-ey*, *-fic*, *-ful*, *-ic*, *-ical*, *-ile*, *-ine*, *-ish*, *-less*, *-like*, *-ly*, *-ory*, *-ose*, *-ous*, *-some*, *-y* ; as—

demoniac	ragged	cubical	friendly
formal	golden	infantile	transitory
European	clayey	infantine	verbose
polar	terrific	roguish	zealous
momentary	hopeful	friendless	frolicsome
fortunate	angelic	childlike	wealthy

3. **Adjectives** are formed from **verbs** by affixing *-able*, *-ive*, *-tive*, and by the participial inflections *-ing*, *-ed*, *-d*, *-en*, *-n*, &c. :

lovable	deceptive	deserted city	written defence
coercive	raging sea	pleased child	driven ox

N.B.—Some nouns are used as adjectives without any change of form ; as *gold* ring, *silver* thimble, *steel* fork, *man* child.

<sup>1</sup> The Latin language frequently supplies an adjective to the English noun, which without such assistance would have no corresponding adjective ; as—

house	domestic	from	domus	spring	vernal	from	ver
cat	feline	„	felis	beginning	initial	„	initium, &c.
ox	bovine	„	bovis	eye	ocular	„	oculus
smell	odorous	„	odour	ear	aural	„	auris
foot	pē'dal	„	pedis	„	auricular	„	auricula

In many instances the English noun has two adjectives corresponding to it, the one of English, and the other of Latin origin ; as—

Nouns	English adj.	Latin adj.	Nouns	English adj.	Latin adj.
year	yearly	annual	flesh	fleshy	carnal
water	watery	aqueous	heaven	heavenly	celestial, &c.
father	fatherly	paternal	king	kingly	regal
mother	motherly	maternal	friend	friendly	amicable

4. **Compound Adjectives** may be formed of—

- (a) An Adj. or Part. preceded by a noun used as an adverb; as *sky-blue*, *blood-red*, *knee-deep*, *breast-high*, *head-strong*, *bed-ridden*, *heart-broken*, *water-logged*, *incense-breathing*, *health-giving*.
- (b) An Imperfect Participle preceded by its object; as *time-serving*, *ear-piercing*, *heart-rending*.
- (c) An Adj. or Part. preceded by an adverb; as *inbred*, *overdone*, *foregone*, *undershot*, *overcast*.
- (d) A Noun preceded by an Adj.; as *manifold*, *barefoot*, *two-foot rule*, *multiform*.
- (e) An Adj. and a Part.; as *bare-legged*, *open-handed*, *large-hearted*, *intelligent-looking*, *dark-complexioned*, *three-sided*, *bandy-legged*.

## DERIVATION OF VERBS.

1. **Verbs** are formed from other **verbs** by prefixing *a-*, *be-*, *en-*, *for-*, *fore-*, *mis-*, *un-*, *under-*, *over-*, *gain-*, *with-*, *s-*; and by affixing *-el* or *-le*, *-er*, *-k*; also by changing the vowel sound.

arise	untie	dazzle (daze)	flitter (flit)
bewail	undersell	straddle (stride)	hark (hear)
enclose	overlie	shovel (shove)	talk (tell)
forbid	gainsay	snivel (sniff)	raise (rise)
foretell	withstand	glimmer (gleam)	drench (drink)
mistake	splash	fritter (fret)	set (sit)

2. **Verbs** are formed from **Adjectives** by prefixing *be-*, *en-*; by affixing *-en*, *-er*, *-se*, *-ise* (or *-ize*), *-fy*; and by change of vowel.

bedim	moisten	cleanse	fill (full)
benumb	brighten	civilise	loathe (loath)
enfeeble	lessen	fertilise	clothe (cloth)
enrich	linger (long)	purify	

3. **Verbs** are formed from **Nouns** by prefixing *be-*, *un-*, *en-*, or by affixing *-en*, *-ate*, *-ise*, *-l*, *-le*, or by change of letters, &c.

becalm	frighten	throttle (throat)	bleed (blood)
bedew	originate	scribble (scribe)	glaze (glass)
unbosom	authorise	gild (gold)	prize (price)
unkennel	kneel	grieve (grief)	advise (advice)
enslave	nestle	live (life)	practise (practice)
lengthen	sparkle	bathe (bath)	mouse [s] (mouse)

N.B.—There are nouns and adjectives which may be used as verbs without change of form ; as *taste, rain, salt, ship, iron, dragoon, sleep, race, heat, warm, cool, correct, right, sour*.

4. **Compound Verbs** may be formed of—

- (a) A verb preceded by its object ; as, *browbeat, back-bite, waylay*.
- (b) A verb preceded by its complement ; as *fulfil, rough-hew, whitewash*.
- (c) A verb preceded by an adverb ; as, *overdo, undertake, cross-question, withstand*.
- (d) A verb followed by an adverb ; as *doff* (do off) ; *don* (do on) ; *dout* (do out = extinguish) ; *dup* (do uplift up).

### EXERCISES.

1. *Make nouns from* taste, truth, deed, lion, chariot, potent, adverse, cash, malt, hero, confess, study, honest, punish, modest, claim, baby, eminent, sincere, rebel, profess, teach, instruct, ample, invest, man, high, assert, dispense, confess, drink, despair, bind, abate, bake, deny, rich, black, destroy, employ, decoy, stow, Spain, good, vary, steer, candid, putrid, perfect, sane, protest, strike, speak, solve, slow, scrape, host, merchant.

2. *Make adjectives from* black, danger, rock, poet, nation, palace, burden, power, wheat, gentleman, child, fashion, home, saint, mast, England, Portugal, white, lone, honest, good, perish, vary, shame, sing, run, man, woman, out, right, loyal, legal, worth, grand, attract, teach, try, instruct, flower, sulphur, irk, value, minister, boor, mountain, glad, crime, credit, retain, change, wonder, Belgium, Italy, Spain, pepper, sorrow, strike, sore, sole, fable.

3. *Make verbs from* equal, glory, white, regular, colony, dark, wreath, advice, weak, human, slack, grass, deep, organ, earth, deep, nerve, speck, stride, sooth, scum, joy, fuse, false, fast, drink, drop, dew, deity, fraud, Christ, cede, cave, camp, calf, moan, battle, ban, scribe, arm, firm, head, fright, hap, new, pell (skin), quit, friend, strong, power, legal.

## LATIN PREFIXES.

N.B.—Many of the prefixes have lost much of their original force and meaning, so that the correct definition of a word does not always include the original meaning of its prefix.

**A-, Ab-, Abs-,** *away from*; as *avert* (to turn from); *absolve* (to loose from); *abstract* (to draw from) [*ab-* is the opposite of *ad-*].

**A-, Ac-, Ad-, &c.,** *to, at*; as *aspire* (to breathe to, to pant after); *accede* (to go to, to assent); *adhere* (to stick to); *advert* (to turn to); *affect* (to do to, to act upon); *aggregate* (to bring to or together, as a flock); *allure* (to entice to); *annex* (to tie to, to affix); *appeal* (to call to); *arrest* (to stop); *assume* (to take to oneself); *attract* (to draw to). [The consonant in this prefix accommodates or assimilates itself to the letter following.]

**Ambi-, Amb-, Am-,** *round about, both*; as *ambiguous* (admitting of two meanings); *ambition* (a going about, especially to solicit votes; desire of power); *amputate* (to cut round or off).

**Ante-,** *before*; *antemeridian* (before midday or noon); *anticipate* (to take before; to forestall); *ancestor* [Fr. from Lat. *antecessor*] (one that goes before; a forefather).

**Bis-, Bi-,** *twice*; as *biscuit* (lit. bread *twice* baked); *bilateral* (having two sides); *bissextile* (twice sixth; leap-year, so called because formerly the sixth day before the Calends of March, that is, Feb. 24, was reckoned twice in leap-year).

**Circum-, Circu-,** *round about*; *circumjacent* (lying round about); *circuitous* (going round about); *circumscribe* (to write around; to limit).

**Cis-,** *on this side*; as *cisalpine* (on this side the Alps, *i.e.* the Roman side); *cismontane* (on this side the mountains).

**Com-,** *together, with*; as *commingle* (to mix together). The final consonant of this prefix accommodates itself to the letter following, so we have,—*coeval* (of the same age); *cognate* (born together; born of same family); *collate* (to bring together; to compare); *connect* (to tie together); *corrode* (to gnaw away). In this word, as in many others, the prefix rather intensifies the meaning of the root than adds its own meaning to it. Compare 'unloose,' 'de rude,' 'oblige.'

**Contra-, Contro-, Counter-,** *against*; as *contravene* (to come against; to hinder); *controvert* (to turn against; to oppose); *counterpoise* (to weigh against, or on the opposite side).

**De-,** *down, away, from*; as *deduce* (to draw from, as an inference); *deduct* (to take from, as an abatement); *descend* (to climb down); *denude* (to make bare or naked: *de-* intensive).

**Dis-,** *asunder, in two*; as *dissolve* (to loose asunder); *dis-syllabic* (of two syllables). *Dis-* often has the force of a negative or privative, as *disservice* (the opposite of service; injury); *dissonant* (not agreeing in sound); *dispraise* (to blame).

**Ex-, E-,** *out of, from*; as *except* (to take out; to exclude); *eject* (to throw out); *efface* (to destroy the face; to rub out); *escheat* (that which falls out; land lapsing to the State for want of an heir). *Note.*—Where *ex-* takes the form of *ef-* or *es-*, it comes to us through the French.

**Extra-,** *beyond, on the outside*; as *extravagant* (wandering beyond bounds; excessive); *extraordinary* (beyond ordinary; unusual); *extra-mural* (without or beyond the walls of a city).

**In-,** before adjectives, and words formed from adjectives, generally means *not*; as *innocent* (not hurtful); *invalid* (not sound; not strong); '*invaluable*' (not valuable, that is, not admitting of valuation; too precious to be valued). The consonant accommodates or assimilates itself to the letter following, as in *illegal* (not legal); *immature* (not ripe); *irresistible* (not to be resisted); *ignoble* (not noble; mean).

**In-,** in verbs, and words derived from verbs, means *in, into, or upon*; as *include* (to shut in); *incorporate* (to form into a body); *incur* (to run into; to bring on); *imminent* (projecting upon; impending). *Note.*—In words coming through the French, *in-* often takes the form of *en-*, as *enthrone*, *enjoy*, *ensue*; or *em-*, as *embrace*, *empower*.

**Inter-,** *between, in the midst of*; as *interjection* (something thrown between; a word not grammatically connected with a sentence); *interlunar* (between moons; time between old and new moon).

**Intra-,** *within*; as *intramural* (within the walls, as of a city).

**Intro-,** *within, into*; as *introvert* (to turn inwards); *introduce* (to lead in); *intromit* (to send within; to admit).

**Juxta-,** *near*; as *juxtaposit* (to place near).

**Non-, not**; as *nonsense* (that which has no sense); *nonsuit* (failure of a suit at law); *nonpareil* (a thing without an equal).

**Ob-, in the way of, against**; as *obstruct* (to pile against; to block up); *oblige* (to bind; to constrain; *ob-* intensive). By assimilation we have *occur* (to run towards; to happen); *offend* to strike against; to displease); *omit* (to send away; to let go; to leave out); *oppress* (to press against; to use harshly).

**Pene-, almost**; as *peninsula* (almost an island); *penumbra* (partial shadow); *penult* (almost last; last but one).

**Per-, through, thoroughly**; as *permeate* (to go through); *permanent* (continuing through; lasting); *perpetual* (going through; permanent). By assimilation we have *pellucid* (thoroughly clear).

**Pol-, Por-, towards**; *pollute* (to overflow; to defile; to foul); *portend* (to stretch towards; to indicate the future).

**Post-, after, behind**; as *postscript* (something written after or at the end); *postdate* (to date after the real time); *post-obit* (a bond payable after death); *postpone* (to put after; to defer).

**Pre-, before, or above**; as *predict* (to say or declare beforehand); *premature* (before ripe; before the proper time); *preside* (to sit before or above; to direct); *prevent* (to come or go before; to hinder); *prevail* (to be very powerful; to overcome).

**Preter-, beyond, past**; as *preternatural* (beyond what is natural); *preterit* (gone by; the past tense); *pretermit* (to send past; to pass by); *preterist* (one who thinks most of the past).

**Pro-, instead of, forth, forward**; *pronoun* (a word used instead of a noun); *prophet* (one who speaks forth, or on behalf of); *proscribe* (to write forth; to publish names of persons outlawed); *protrude* (to thrust forward); *promote* (to move forward; to advance). In words from the French, *pro-* takes the form of *pur-* or *pour-*, as in '*purpose*,' '*pourtray*.'

**Re-, Red-, back, again**; as *respond* (to promise back; to reply); *resume* (to take back); *recur* (to run back; to happen again); *redeem* (to buy back); *redound* (to roll back as a wave). *Re-* sometimes only intensifies the meaning of what it is added to, as in '*recommend*' (to commend; to praise); '*refrigerate*' (to make cold); *redolent* (fragrant; odorous).

**Retro-, backward**; as *retrograde* (going backward); *retrospect* (looking back); *retrovert* (to turn back).

**Se-, Sed-, away, aside, without**; as *secede* (to go away);

*seclude* (to shut apart); *segregate* (to set apart from the flock; to separate); *secure* (without care); *sedition* (a going apart).

**Semi-**, *half*; as *semitone* (a half tone); *semicircle* (a half circle); *semifluid* (imperfectly fluid).

**Sine-**, *without*; as *sinecure* (without care; an office or benefice without work).

**Sub-**, *under, from under, up, after*; *subaltern* (under another; subordinate); *subaqueous* (lying under water); *subsequent* (following after). By accommodation we have—*suspect* (to look at covertly; to mistrust); *succumb* (to lie down under); *suffix* (something fixed after; an affix or postfix); *suggest* (to carry under; to hint); *summon* (to warn secretly; to call); *support* (to bear up); *surrogate* (a deputy); *sustain* (to hold up).

**Subter-**, *under, secretly*; as *subterfuge* (a secret escape; an artifice for escape or concealment); *subterranean* (underground).

**Super-**, *over, above, beyond*; as *superficies* (the upper face or surface); *superincumbent* (lying above); *superlative* (carried above others; superior to others); *supervisor* (overseer). *Note*.—In words that come to us through the French, *super-* takes the form of *sur-*, as in *surprise*, *surpass*.

**Supra-**, *above, over*; as *supramundane* (above the world).

**Trans-, Tra-**, *across, beyond*; as *transfer*, *translate*, *transport* (to carry across), *traverse*, doublet of '*transverse*' (*adj.*, lying across; *verb*, to cross); *trespass* (to pass beyond).

**Ultra-**, *beyond*; as *ultramarine* (beyond the sea, a colour so called in reference either to the place from which derived, or to the blue colour of the sea); *ultramontane* (beyond the mountains, that is, the Alps; used to denote extreme views as to the temporal authority of the Pope).

**Vice-**, *instead of*; *viceroi* (one in place of a king); *vicegerent* (a person acting for another); *viscount* (Fr. one in place of a count or an earl: a nobleman next below an earl).

## EXERCISES ON LATIN PREFIXES.

1. Give three words compounded with ob-, pre-, trans-, subter-; and their meanings.

2. Give words compounded of ex-, ultra-, pro-, ambi-, contra-.

3. Give meaning of Latin prepositions ad-, sub-, super-, pre-, retro-, and show how their meaning may be traced in 'arrogate,' 'support,' 'superior,' 'prevent,' 'retrospective.'

4. Given the following Latin roots and their meanings, deduce the meanings of the given derivatives :—

ROOTS.	MEANINGS.	DERIVATIVES.
Cedo, cessum	<i>I go, I yield, given up</i>	accede, antecedent, concede, exceed, intercede, precede, proceed, secede, succeed, retrocession.
Capio, captus	<i>I take hold, taken</i>	incapable, recapture, accept, susceptible, receptacle, intercept, precept, anticipate, recipient. [creet.
Cerno, cretum	<i>I judge, judged</i>	discern, concern, discreet, indis-
Cito	<i>I call, I rouse</i>	excite, incite, recite, excitation.
Clamo	<i>I cry out</i>	acclaim, exclaim, proclaim, reclaim, declaim, disclaim.
Claudo, clausus	<i>I shut, shut</i>	exclude, include, preclude, conclude, seclude, enclose, recluse.
Clino	<i>I bend</i>	decline, incline, recline, declination.
Cor, cordis	<i>the heart</i>	accord, concord, discord, record.
Credo	<i>I believe</i>	accredit, incredible, discredit.
Cresco	<i>I grow</i>	decrease, increase, excrescence.
Cubo [cumbo, in comp.]	<i>I lie down</i>	incubus, incubate, recumbent, incumbent, superincumbent.
Curro, cursum	<i>I run, run</i>	concur, incur, recur, occur, dis-
Dico, dictus	<i>I speak, spoken</i>	course, concourse, intercourse.
Dignus	<i>worthy</i>	predict, contradict, interdict, indignity, condign. [dict.
Duco, ductus	<i>I lead, led</i>	conduce, induce, induct, produce, introduce, reduce, seduce, adduce, deduce, educe, educate, superinduce, abduce, traduce, conduit.
Emo	<i>I buy</i>	redeem, exempt, pre-emption.
Facies	<i>the face</i>	deface, efface, surface, superficial.
Facio, factum	<i>I make, made</i>	affect, perfect, defect, disaffection, counterfeit, suffice, effect, infect, efficient, surfeit.
Fero	<i>I carry</i>	confer, defer, infer, prefer, refer, circumference, offer, proffer.
Fixum	<i>fixed</i>	affix, transfix, prefix, postfix.
Flecto, flectus	<i>I bend, bent</i>	deflect, circumflex, inflect, reflect.
Frango, fractus	<i>I break, broken</i>	diffraction, infraction, refrangible, infrangible, refract, infringe.
Fugio	<i>I flee</i>	refuge, subterfuge, centrifugal.



ROOTS.	MEANINGS.	DERIVATIVES.
Fundo, fusus	<i>I pour, poured</i>	refund, infuse, confuse, confound
Gradior, gressus	<i>to step, to go, having stepped</i>	progress, retrograde, aggressive
Grex, gregis	<i>a flock</i>	ingress, degrade, egress, congress.
Hæreo, hæsum	<i>I stick, stuck</i>	congregate, aggregate, egregious.
Humus	<i>the ground</i>	adhere, cohere, cohesive, inhere.
Itum	<i>gone</i>	exhume, inhume, posthumous.
Jaceo	<i>I lie</i>	exit, circuit, sedition, transit.
Jacio, jactus	<i>I throw, thrown</i>	adjacent, circumjacent, interjacent.
Jungo, junctus	<i>I join, joined</i>	ejaculate, inject, reject, subject, adjective, project, interjection.
Latum	<i>carried</i>	conjunction, disjunctive, subjunctive, injunction, rejoin, subjoin.
Locus	<i>a place</i>	translate, elate, collate, oblate, dilate, prolate, relate, superlative.
Ludo	<i>I play, I deceive</i>	allocate, dislocate, collocate.
Luo	<i>I wash</i>	prelude, interlude, delude, elude, allude, illude, collude.
Maturus	<i>ripe</i>	ablution, dilute, diluvial, alluvial.
Mergo	<i>I plunge</i>	immature, premature. [merse.
Migro	<i>I remove</i>	emerge, submerge, immerge, im-emigrate, immigrate, transmigrate.
Mineo	<i>I hang, I project</i>	prominent, eminent, imminent, pre-eminent.
Mitto, missus	<i>I send, sent</i>	commit, intermit, permit, remit, transmit, pretermit, dismiss.
Mons	<i>a mountain</i>	amount, promontory, surmount, ultramontane, intermontane.
Natura	<i>nature</i>	unnatural, preternatural, superna-
Natus	<i>born</i>	cognate, innate. [tural.
Necto, nexus	<i>I tie, tied</i>	annex, connect, disconnect.
Nuntio	<i>I tell</i>	announce, denounce, enunciate, pronounce, renounce.
Ordo	<i>order</i>	disorder, inordinate, subordinate, insubordinate, extraordinary.
Pareo	<i>I appear</i>	apparent, disappear, transparent, semi-transparent, apparition.
Pello, pulsus	<i>I drive, driven</i>	expel, repel, repulse, dispel, compel, impel, propel, propulsion.
Pendeo	<i>I hang</i>	depend, suspend, append, impend.
Plaudo	<i>I clap, I praise</i>	applaud, explode.
Plico	<i>I fold</i>	complicate, explicate, implicate, implicit, explicit, supplicate.
Pono, positum	<i>I place, placed</i>	depone, postpone, apposite, component, compost, compound, deposit, exponent, expound, impost, opponent, opposite. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Compose, depose, dispose, expose, impose, interpose, oppose, propose, repose, suppose, &c., come from Fr. *poser*, to place, set (*Skeat*).

ROOTS.	MEANINGS.	DERIVATIVES.
Pondus	<i>a weight</i>	preponderate, imponderable.
Porto	<i>I carry</i>	deport, export, import, report, transport, purport, support.
Precor	<i>I pray</i>	deprecate, imprecate.
Prehendo	<i>I take</i>	apprehend, misapprehend, comprehend, reprehend, impregnable.
Puto	<i>I prune, I reckon, I reflect</i>	amputate, compute, depute, dispute, impute, repute, disrepute.
Rogo	<i>I ask, I propose a law</i>	abrogate, interrogate, derogate, arrogate, prerogative, prorogue.
Scando	<i>I climb</i>	ascend, descend, condescend.
Scribo, scriptus	<i>I write, written</i>	ascribe, describe, postscript, subscribe, superscribe, circumscribe.
Seco, sectum	<i>I cut, cut</i>	bisect, dissect, insect, intersect.
Sequor	<i>I follow</i>	consequent, subsequent.
Sisto	<i>I stop, I stand</i>	assist, consist, desist, persist, resist.
Solvo	<i>I loose</i>	absolve, dissolve, resolve.
Specio, spectus	<i>I see, seen</i>	aspect, despise, inspect, circum-spect, retrospect, introspection.
Spiro	<i>I breathe</i>	aspire, expire, respire, suspire, perspire, transpire, inspire, conspire.
Struo, structus	<i>I build, built</i>	construct, instruct, destroy, sub-structure, superstructure, construe.
Sumo	<i>I take</i>	assume, consume, presume, resume, unassuming.
Surgo, surrectus	<i>I rise, risen</i>	insurgent, resurrection, resource, insurrection.
Tego, tectus	<i>I cover, covered</i>	integument, protect, detect.
Teneo, tentum	<i>I hold, held</i>	contain, detain, continent, untenable, sustain, retain, abstain.
Traho, tractus	<i>I draw, drawn</i>	contract, detract, distract, extract, protract, retract, subtract, subtrahend, abstract, intractable.
Vado	<i>I go</i>	evade, invade, pervade.
Velo	<i>I cover</i>	unveil, reveal, develop, envelop.
Venio	<i>I come</i>	advent, convene, event, invent, prevent, intervene, subvention, supervene, covenant, contravene.
Verto	<i>I turn</i>	avert, averse, convert, converse, diverse, divert, inverse, invert, introvert, pervert, revert, retrovert, subvert, controvert.
Vinco, victum	<i>I conquer, conquered</i>	convince, evince, invincible, convict, evict, province, vanquish.
Voco	<i>I call</i>	convoke, invoke, provoke, revoke, irrevocable, advocate, avocation.

## GREEK PREFIXES.

**Amphi-**, *both, round about*; as *amphibious* (having double life; living either in air or water); *amphitheatre* (a circular or oval theatre enclosing an arena).

**An-, A-**, *not, without*; as *anarchy* (want of government); *atom* (indivisible particle); *ambrosia* (lit. immortality; food conferring immortality); *anonymous* (nameless).

**Ana-, An-**, *up, back*; as *anatomy* (cutting up, art of dissecting); *analyse* (to loosen up, to separate into component parts); *aneurism* (a widening up or dilatation of an artery); *anachronism* (lit. backward time; an error in regard to past time); *anagram* (a change in a word by transposing letters).

**Anti-**, *against, opposite to*; as *antipathy* (a feeling against; dislike); *antipodes* (those whose feet are opposite; persons separated by half the earth's circumference); *Antarctic* (opposite the Arctic); *antidote* (that which counteracts; a remedy).

**Apo-**, *off, from, away*; as *apostasy* (a standing away; abandonment of religion or party); *apology* (speech to ward off attack; a defence); *apologue* (a moral tale; a fable).

**Cata-, Cath-, Cat-**, *down, throughout*; as *cataract* (a rushing down = a waterfall); *catalogue* (a counting down = a list); *cataclysm* (a washing down = a deluge); *catholic* (through the whole = universal); *catechise* (to sound down = to question).

**Dia-**, *two, through, across*; *diameter* (the measure through); *digraph* (two letters sounded as one); *diaphragm* (a fence across = a partition); *dialogue* (a conversation between two); *diatonic* (proceeding through tones).

**Dys-**, *ill, difficult*; as *dyspepsy* (difficult digestion); *dysentery* (illness of the entrails or bowels).

**Ec-, Ex-**, *out of, from*; as *eccentric* (from the centre); *eclectic* (choosing out); *exodus* (a going out); *ecstasy* (a standing aside; a state in which the mind stands out of, or is unconscious of, sensible things); *eroteric* (external; public).

**En-, Em-**, *in, on*; as *energy* (working power; *en-* intensive); *endemic* (in the people = peculiar to a people or district, as a disease); *emphasis* (a making clear, as by stress of voice); *empiric* (resting on trial or experiment).

**Epi-**, *on, during*; as *epitaph* (inscription on a tomb); *epi-*

**demic** (on a whole people ; general) ; **epitome** (a cutting = an abridgment) ; **epithet** (something added on ; an adjective).

**Eso-, in, into** ; **esoteric** (inner ; private ; reserved for a few).

**Eu-, well, good** ; as **euphony** (agreeable sound) ; **eupepsy** (good digestion) ; **eulogy** (a speaking well of) ; **evangel** (good news) ; **euphemism** (a pleasant name for a disagreeable thing).

**Hemi-, half** ; as **hemisphere** (a half sphere) ; **hemistich** (a half line of poetry). Compare Latin 'semi.'

**Hyper-, over, above, beyond** ; as **hypercritical** (over critical) ; **hyperborean** (beyond the north wind = belonging to the extreme north) ; **hyperbole** (an exaggerated expression).

**Hypo-, under** ; as **hypocrisy** (acting of a part ; dissimulation) ; **hypothesis** (something placed under ; a supposition).

**Meta-, Met-, over, after, change** ; as **metaphor** (something carried over ; a transference of meaning) ; **metamorphose** (to change the form) ; **metonymy** (change of name).

**Mono-, single** ; as **monograph** (a writing on one subject) ; **monolith** (a column of a single stone) ; **monomania** (madness on one subject) ; **monocular** (one-eyed).

**Ne-, not** ; as **nepenthe** (sorrow-remover ; drug to relieve pain).

**Pan-, all** ; as **panacea** (a heal-all ; a universal medicine) ; **pantheon** (a temple to all gods) ; **pantomime** (a mimic of all ; mimicry ; dumb show) ; **Pandemonium** (palace of all demons).

**Para-, Par-, beside** ; as **parable** (a placing beside ; a comparison) ; **parallel** (side by side) ; **paraphrase** (a parallel speech — that is, one giving the same sense in other words).

**Peri-, round, about** ; as **perimeter** (measurement round ; circumference) ; **period** (a going round ; a recurring interval of time) ; **periphrase**, or **periphrasis** (a roundabout way of speaking).

**Pro-, before** ; as **prologue** (something spoken before ; preface) ; **programme** (something written beforehand showing order of proceedings). [See Latin *pro*.]

**Pros-, to, towards** ; **proselyte** (one who has come over to a religion or opinion ; a convert) ; **prosody** (lit. a song to music ; the laws of versification).

**Syn-, Sym-, together, with** ; as **syntax** (ordering of words together ; correct arrangement of words) ; **sympathy** (feeling with another) ; **synchronal** (happening together, or at the same time) ; **syllable** (letters taken together to form one sound) ; **system** (anything formed of parts placed together).

## ENGLISH PREFIXES.

**A-**, *at, on, in* ; as *abed, abaft, abeam, afield, ashore, ajar, aground, ahead, aboard*. [Represents O.E. *on-*.]

**A-**, *out, up* ; as *arise, arouse, awake, away*. [In this sense *a-* represents O.E. *á*.]

**A-**, *close to, against* ; as *along, abreast*. [From O.E. *and-*.]

**A-**, *of, from* ; as *anew, adown, akin, athirst*. [Represents O.E. *of*.] Sometimes *a-* or *e-* represents O.E. *ge-* or *y-* (a softened form of *ge-*), as in *afford, aware, enough* ; elsewhere it represents *at* (an old sign of the infinitive), as in *ado*. [The meaning of *a-* has become generally vague.]

**An-** (from O.E. *and-*), *against, in return* ; as *answer* (to swear against, as in a trial ; to reply to).

**At-**, *at, near* ; as *atone* (to make at-one ; to reconcile) ; *against*, as *twit* (to reproach).

**Be-**, *by, beside, before, make* ; *bedim, bespeak, behalf, becalm, bereave, belay, belabour, bethink*. In *beseech, besprinkle, bespatter*, &c., *be-* is intensive ; in *behead* it is privative.

**En-, Em-** (strictly a French prefix derived from Latin *in-*, but it is often prefixed to English words, and may be regarded as a doublet of O.E. *in-, im-*), *in* ; as *enshrine, enslave, entreat, embank, embody*.

**For-**, *through, away* ; as *forbid, forbear, forsake, forget, forgive, forlorn, forsooth, forego* (should have been 'forgo').

**Fore-**, *before* ; *forebode, foretell, forestall, foresail, forearm*. (*Foreclose* and *forfeit* are not examples of English *fore-*, but come to us through the French from the Latin.)

**Forth-**, *forwards* ; *forthcoming, forthgoing, forthwith*.

**Pro-**, *averse to, from* ; *froward, frowardly, frowardness*.

**Gain-**, *against* ; as *gainsay* (to speak against ; to controvert).

**I-, or Y-**, sign of perfect participle ; as *iwis* (= truly : obsolete), *yclept* (called), *handiwork, handicraft*.

**In-, im-**, *in, on, to make* ; *income, inward, imbitter, impound*. (Interchangeable in many cases with French *en-, em-*, derived from Latin 'In-' *into*, which see.)

**Mis-**, *wrong, ill* ; *mistake, misdeed, misbehave, mislead*. [In words from the French *mis-* represents *mes-* from Lat. *minus* (less) ; as *mischief, mischance, miscarriage, misalliance, misgovern, misadventure, miscount, miscreant, misnomer*.

**N-**, *not* (represents O.E. negative *ne*); as *never*, *neither*, *nay*, *none*, *nothing*, *nobody*.

**Off-**, *off*, *from*; as *offspring*, *offshoot*, *offset*, *offing*, *off-scouring*, *offal* (= off-fall).

**On-**, *on*; as *onset*, *onslaught*, *onlooker*, *onward*. (See *a-*.)

**Out-**, **Ut-**, *out*, *beyond*; *outbid*, *outbreak*, *outburst*, *outcast*, *outlaw*, *outspread*, *outwit*, *outdo*, *outmost*, *utmost*, *utter*, *utmost*. [Compare expression, 'out-Herod Herod.']

**Over-**, *over*, *above*; *overarch*, *overseer*, *overawe*, *overdose*, *overhaul*, *overflow*, *overmuch*, *overhand*, *overcoat*.

**Thorough-**, *through*; *thoroughbred*, *thoroughfare*, *thorough-going*, *thoroughpaced*, *throughout*.

**To-**, *to*, *on this*; *to-day*, *to-morrow*, *to-night*, *toward*, *together* (gathered to).

**Un-**, *not*, *back*; *unbar*, *undress*, *untie*, *unlock*, *unfold*, *undo*, *unable*, *unclean*, *unhappy*, *unrest*.

**Under-**, *under*, *below*; *underrate*, *understand*, *undershot*, *undergo*, *underlet*, *underhand*, *undergrowth*.

**Up-**, *up*; *upbraid*, *uphill*, *upland*, *uproot*, *upset*, *upstart*.

**Well-**, *well*; *welfare*, *well-meant*, *well-bred*, *well-behaved*.

**With-**, *from*, *against*, *with*; *withdraw*, *withstand*, *withal*, *within*, *withhold*, *without*, *withsay*.

In the following table the Latin, Greek, and English prefixes of similar signification are placed opposite each other.

English.	Latin.	Greek.	Signification.
A	Ad, ac, af, al, at, ag, &c.	Epi, ep, en, em	to, on, upon, in
Be	Ambi, am, circum	Peri	round, about, make
En, em	In, im	En, em	in, into, on
Fore	Ante, pre	Pro	before
Over	Super, extra	Hyper	above, too high
Out	Trans, ultra	Meta, met	beyond, change
With	Contra, ob, op, of, &c.	Anti, ant	against, opposition
Un	In, il, ir, im, ig, &c.	A, an	not, without
—	Con, co, col, cog, com	Syn, syl, sym	together, with
—	De	Cata	down
—	Juxta	Para	nigh to, beside
—	Per, pel	Dia	through
—	Re	Ana	back, again
—	Sub, subter, suc	Hypo	under, beneath

## AFFIXES, POSTFIXES, OR SUFFIXES.

E., Old English ; F., French ; L., Latin ; F.L., through French from Latin ; Gr., Greek ; It., Italian.

## NOUN SUFFIXES.

-an, L.	<i>Person or one who acts ; as,</i>	artisan, publican, librarian, musician.
-ant, L.		communicant, tyrant, servant, assistant.
-ar, L.		scholar, beggar, liar, templar.
-ard, E.		dotard, steward, drunkard, coward.
-ary, L.		adversary, secretary, missionary.
-ate, L.		advocate, apostate, magistrate.
-ee, F.L.		absentee, devotee, legatee, nominee.
-eer, F.L.		auctioneer, engineer, charioteer.
-ent, L.		agent, regent, student, patient.
-er, E.		speaker, sufferer, partaker, baker (masc.)
-ist, L.		organist, linguist, evangelist.
-ite, L.		favourite, Levite, bedlamite.
-ive, F.L.		operative, fugitive, captive.
-or, F.L.		governor, inspector, visitor (masculine).
-ster, E.		gamester, songster, spinster.
-ess, F.L.		murderess, empress, countess (fem.)
-cle, L.	<i>Diminution or endearment ; as,</i>	particle, article, canticle.
-cule, L.		animalcule, reticule.
-et, F.L.		eaglet, circlet, islet, locket, floweret.
-ie, E.		Willie, dearie, lassie.
-let, F.		streamlet, ringlet, eaglet, hamlet.
-ling, E.		darling, gosling, seedling, duckling.
-kin, E.		lambkin, bodkin, mannikin.
-ock, E.		hillock, hummock, bullock.
-ule, L.		globule, glandule, pustule, granule.
-acy, -cy, F.L.	<i>Place, thing, act of, or state of being ; as,</i>	intimacy, accuracy, obstinacy, infancy.
-ade, F.		crusade, escapade, salad, tornado.
-age, F.L.		voyage, courage, bondage, hermitage.
-ance, F.L.		distance, hindrance, variance, ignorance.
-ancy, F.L.		constancy, brilliancy, vacancy.
-ary, L.		granary, estuary, library, diary.
-ence, F.L.		influence, consistence, preference.
-ency, F.L.		decency, clemency, fluency, currency.
-head, E.		Godhead.
-hood, E.		manhood, childhood, widowhood.
-ice, F.L.		notice, service, practice.
-men, L.		regimen, acumen.
-ment, F.L.		contentment, enjoyment, defilement.

-mony, L.	Place, thing, act of, or state of being; as,	parsimony, harmony, patrimony.
-ness, E.		rudeness, boldness, blindness.
-ory, L.		factory, armory, directory, depository.
-ry, L.		victory, rivalry, nursery, vestry.
-ship, E.		lordship, clerkship, hardship.
-ion, -on, L.		creation, confusion, reason.
-sion, L.		commission, vision, derision, decision.
-tion, L.		completion, reformation, contrition.
-th, E.		truth, strength, sloth, length, health.
-tude, L.		latitude, altitude, magnitude, gratitude.
-ty, F.L.		solidity, polarity, cruelty, dignity.
-y, F.L.		agony, anarchy, anatomy, perjury, infamy.
-ure, L.		departure, verdure, agriculture, capture.
-craft, E., <i>strength, skill</i> ;		bookcraft, kingcraft, witchcraft.
-dom, E., <i>rank, state, place</i> ; as,		earldom, kingdom, Christendom.
-escence, -nce, F.L., <i>state of growing</i> ; as,		effervescence, convalescence, putrescence, quiescence, distance.
-ics, Gr., <i>art, science</i> ; as,		ethics, politics, optics, mechanics.
-ide, F., <i>compound of</i> ;		oxide, chloride, sulphide, bromide.
-ism, -asm, L., <i>doctrine ; an idiom</i> ; as,		Calvinism, paganism, Scotticism, enthusiasm, pleonasm.
-ric, E., <i>rule, power, office</i> ; as,		bishopric, archbishopric.
-tide, E., <i>time or event</i> ; as,		eventide, noontide, Whitsuntide.

## ADJECTIVE SUFFIXES.

-ac, L.	Of or belonging to ; as,	demoniac, elegiac, prosodiac.
-al, L.		annual, carnal, ethereal, parental.
-an, -ain, L.		European, human, sylvan, certain.
-ane, L.		humane, urbane, mundane.
-ar, L.		angular, globular, lunar, solar.
-ary, L.		primary, temporary, military.
-ese, It.		Chinese, Maltese, Japanese, Cingalese.
-ian, L.		Christian, agrarian, Stygian.
-ic, L.		arctic, monastic, apostolic, chivalric.
-ical, L.		poetical, alphabetical, critical.
-id, L.	Full of ; as,	florid, liquid, timid, vivid, tepid, acid.
-ile, L.		fertile, servile, infantile, Gentile.
-ine, L.		saline, canine, masculine, divine.
-ory, L.		transitory, cursory, introductory.
-ful, E.		joyful, beautiful, hopeful, bountiful.
-ose, L.		verbose, jocose, operose.
-ous, L.		luminous, zealous, populous.
-ate, F.L.		compassionate, affectionate.
-some, E.		frolicsome, gamesome, troublesome.
-y, E.		wealthy, flowery, knotty.



- able, L. } *May* or { eatable, portable, movable.  
 -ible, L. } *can be* ; { visible, audible, credible, flexible.  
 -ile, L. } as, { flexible, fragile, textile.
- ly, E. } *Like* or { earthly, worldly, brotherly, homely.  
 -like, E. } *resembling* ; { warlike, saintlike, childlike.  
 -ish, E. } as, { foolish, childish, knavish.
- ant, L. } *State of* { verdant, arrogant, pliant, militant.  
 -ent, L. } *being* ; { absent, adjacent, dependent.  
 -ate, F.L. } as, { private, corporate, accurate.
- aceous, L., *consisting of* ; as farinaceous, crustaceous, predaceous.
- acious, L., *full of* ; as, audacious, contumacious, capacious.
- en, E., *made of* ; as, wooden, hempen, wheaten, golden.
- escent, L., *growing, becoming* ; as, convalescent, putrescent.
- ish, E., *little, somewhat* ; as, brownish, whitish, greenish.
- ive, F.L., *having power* ; as, persuasive, creative, destructive.
- less, E., *without* ; as, heartless, hopeless, penniless, artless.
- ty, E., *ten to be multiplied* ; as sixty.
- ward, *in the direction of* ; as, inward, outward, downward.

## VERBAL SUFFIXES.

- ate, F.L. }  
 -en, E. }  
 -fy, F.L. }  
 -ish, F.L. }  
 -ise (-ize), F. Gr. } *To make* ; as, { animate, regulate, facilitate, permeate.  
 { sweeten, darken, fasten, shorten, whiten.  
 { sanctify, magnify, glorify, pacify.  
 { finish, publish, stablish, demolish.  
 { equalise, colonise, exercise, civilise, fertilise, tranquillise.

## ADVERBIAL SUFFIXES.

- forth, E., *forward* ; as, henceforth, thenceforth.
- ling, E., *way, manner* ; as, darkling, sideling.
- long, E., „ „ as, sidelong, headlong.
- ly, E., *like* ; as, foolishly, naturally, joyfully, kindly.
- meal, E., *time* ; as, piecemeal (= a piece at a time).
- ward, -wards, E., *in the direction of* ; as, homeward, heavenward, outwards, backwards.
- ways, -way, E., *manner* ; as, always, noways, straightway.
- wise, E., *way, manner* ; as, likewise, lengthwise, otherwise.

## EXERCISES ON WORD BUILDING.

1. Select the verbs derived from the first six Latin roots (p. 131) and form nouns from them, arranged in three classes : (1) those that may be used as nouns without any change of form, as 'discredit;' (2) those that make nouns by simple addition of a suffix, as 'discern'(v.), 'discerner'(c. n.), 'discernment'(abs. n.); and (3) those that require some omission or internal change as well as the addition of a suffix; as 'accede'(v.), 'accession'(n.), 'accessory'(adj. and n.).<sup>1</sup>

2. Select the adjectives from the Latin derivatives (p. 131), and form nouns from them.

3. State the ways in which adverbs may be formed from nouns, adjectives, or other adverbs, and give illustrative examples.

4. Show how adjectives may be formed from nouns, and give examples different from those given above.

5. Show how abstract nouns are formed from concrete ones.

6. Give examples of two nouns formed from one verb, and show how the nouns differ in meaning and application.

7. Give examples of nouns and adjectives used as verbs without any change of form.

8. Give six English nouns with correlative Latin adjectives.

9. Give examples of duplicate adjectives, English and Latin, as 'bodily' and 'corporeal.'

10. What do you understand by words coming to us from the Latin through the French? Give examples.

11. In some cases we have derived words directly from the Latin, and doublets of them from the Latin through the French. Give examples, and show what difference we make in their use and application.

12. *Form abstract nouns* from potent, adverse, confess, operate, conspire, parent, knight, supreme, curate, urgent, resist, flatter, weary, current, miser, priest, excel, pirate, moist, please, distant, repent, boy, slave, modest, happy, man, delicate, hero,

<sup>1</sup> It will be good practice for the pupil to go quite through the derivatives in the same way, and, further, to discriminate between the abstract and concrete nouns. It is important, too, that where we have doublet forms derivatively the same, the difference of application be understood, as 'induce' and 'induct;' 'infraction' and 'infringement;' 'corporal' and 'corporeal;' 'rector' and 'regent.'

depend, captive, broad, ample, apt, rely, peer, deep, dark, flatter, honest, vassal, perform, brave, expose, clement, apprentice, acrid, atone, abhor, ample, putrid, acrid, carry, divine.

13. *Form concrete nouns* from conspire, flatter, perform, account, drunk, adverse, potent, study, operate, confess, spin, adhere, offer, succeed, eject, collect, preside, correspond, drama, credit, pun, assail, emit, private, travel, flower, spin, lag, beg, serve, finance, satire, represent, note, claim, magic, grammar.

14. *Form nouns denoting jurisdiction or office* from lady, earl, bishop, elector, clerk, tutor, protector, fellow, rector, curate, master, marquis, Christian, steward, major, captain, mayor, sheriff, primate, magistrate, viceroy, patriarch.

15. *Form nouns denoting the act of doing* from explain, rebel, expel, ascend, emend, promote, amend, defend, subvert, concede, repel, confound, invest, divide, add, convert, move, explain, precede, succeed, extend, represent, conserve, command, protest, compound, analyse, prove, practise, rectify.

16. *What are the diminutives of* grain, ice, hill, pipe, leaf, verse, front, found, tart, globe, part, bull, lock, root, sphere, nurse, maid, lad, cat, lamb, John, duck, swan, lion?

17. *From the following words form adjectives and give their meanings* : form, infant, circle, gold, candour, honour, consul, fate, wax, angel, moment, clay, fire, oat, cube, transit, act, friend, poet, rhythm, analysis, epistle, apostle, autumn, spring, winter, languor, nonsense, joke, voice, Europe, single, planet, consolation, excess, horror, grammar, giant, serpent, promise, spirit, globe, people, muscle, sympathy, clergy, tragedy, fervour, magistrate, book, Norway, Cornwall, Lancaster, Devon, Liverpool, Portugal, humour, toil, temper, grass, plenty, fortune, pity, frolic, boy, herb, doubt, friend, people, rock, plenty, terror, imitate, divide, attend, evade, blame, crust, earth, churl, collect, persuade, consider, migrate, read, time, face.

18. *From the following form verbs and give their meanings* : equal, quick, person, glad, captive, stupid, strong, authentic, act, fertile, clear, just, long, ample, accent, signal, critic, vile, acid, arbiter, false, grief, loose, capital, summary.

19. *From the following form adverbs and give their meanings* : legal, west, easy, in, other, no, home, friendly, polite, head, dark, godly, out, straight, some, all, like, one, two, three, fore, earth.

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